



The
Empress
and her
Daughter,
with the
Seven Wise
Mistresses





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and her
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with the
Seven Wise
Mistresses



THE HISTORY
Of the Seven
Wife Mistrisses
O F
R O M E.

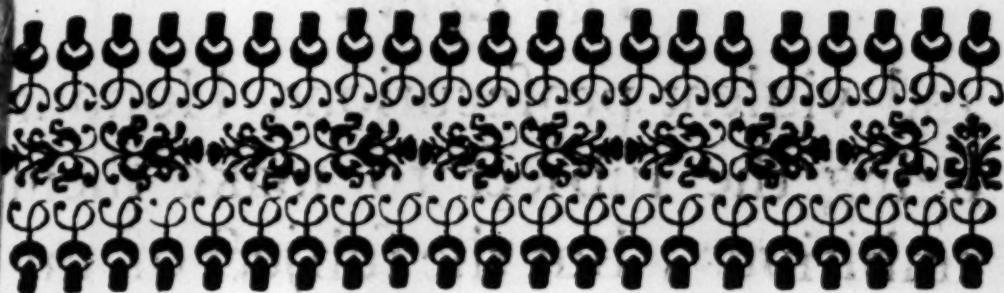
Whose Names were

{ Halicuja,	Penthisilia,
Mardula,	Debora,
{ Cicre,	Dejanara,
{ Boadicia. }	

Wherein, the Treachery of Evil Counsel is discovered, the Innocency of harmless Virgins cleared, and the Wisdom of Seven Wise Women displayed, to the wonder of their own Nation, and the Admiration of all the World.

London, Printed for M. Wright, at the Kings Head in the Old Bailey. 1663.

Elia G.



The Epistle
To the
R E A D E R.

Reader,

WHAT thou findest written in this small piece, or little Volume, was written for thy benefit, whereby thou mayest learn to know what canting, what deceits, and juggling Devices were commonly used in Ancient Coun- cels, by powerfull Combinations

The Epistle

and violent prosecutions, Honour being the subject to make them ambitious ; but the subject of my Discourse is Counsel and Wisdom : that is rarety not novelty, attended both by Vice and Vertue, to teach thee how to imbrace the one , and to shun the other. And therefore I have laboured like unto the Bee to extract and gather a little Honey into a little Hive , being the first-fruits of my Labours between Vice and Vertue, collected into an easie and small Method for the Benefit of the Seller, the Ease of the Buyer, and the Pleasure of the Reader. And though it is short, yet it is sweet , and of sundry Counsels and Consultations, from the subtil

Judge

to the Reader.

Judge on the Bench of Justice, to the harmless Lady in her Cabinet of Innocency : and from the Emperour upon his Throne of Prosperity, to the Beggar in his Cave of poverty ; and therefore in all matters and in all actions thou goest about, here is the platform of Sincerity, Truth, Zeal and Fidelity ; whereby Treason is discovered, Truth is advanced, Treachery is executed, Vertue is exalted, and Vice is confounded. And for the due observation of these Precepts , and the further encouragement for thee to read them, minde these four rules.

If thou wouldst be Wife, here are Counsels to advise thee.

If thou wouldst be Vertuous,
here

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here are Presidents to give thee.

If thou wouldst be Historical,
here are Rules to direct thee.

If thou wouldst be Viceous, here
are Examples before thee both Di-
vine and Humane.

From all which thou wilt learn,
Vanity to contemn it ; Death to
expect it ; Judgement to avoid it ;
Hell to escape it ; and Heaven to
desire it.

It is collected in way of Exam-
ples and Declarations to a Moral
Sense ; and if thou wouldst ask the
Author from whence he gathered
all these varieties of Delights ? he
doth answer, from various sorts of
Histories : as, *Plato*, *Virgil*, *Ovid*,
Dares, old *Homer*, and divers
others,

to the Reader.

others, to relate all is needless ; and in their Works have I been groveling some certaine yeares to finde out the remarkable Demonstrations which I have here expos'd to the publique view of the world. For in Histories are to be found numerous Delights pleasing the Fancy , expelling Melancholly, sharpning the Wit, illuminating the Understanding, and refining the Tongue to the purity of all Oratory.

The due observation of Histories learns both Carriage and Deportment , and is able out of the roughness of Barbarism , to raise man to the noblest height of all Gentilities, Courtships, and Civilities

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ties, and to carry on Designes of united Hearts at greatest distance ; and whosoever maintains his Correspondency with Learning, must of necessity with Historical Humorists ; and though their Bodies are absent, yea, and haply rotten in their graves, or consumed to dust and ashes many hundred years ago, yet having their Works before us, we do dispute, confer, and argue, yea, and know their hearts and approbations in matters both Ecclesiastical and Civil, as absolute as if their persons were alive and in our presence.

From Histories we learn by way of tradition, to know what was done a thousand years ago, and ten thousand

to the Reader.

thousand miles distant from the place, as well, nay and better then thousands which lived in those very dayes, and where the actions were done : Therefore History ought to be praised not contemned ; for it doth encourage Youth through the pleasantness of the Story, whereby he doth sooner attain to his English Tongue, and is still more desirous to read further. For many thousands at School, in their innocence, are more naturally given to learn first Historical Fables, by which they sooner come to read perfect, then to begin first in hard Books appertaining to Divine Knowledge ; which made that rare and learned Schollar *Æsop*, to put forth

The Epistle

forth his Fables in the Schools, which being composed with such incomparable and acute Wit, Jeast and Merriment, that each Schollar daily strove who should outvie the other in the Dispute and Rehearsal of them.

27
To declare any further of what this little Piece do mention and concern, I need not, lest I should be found faulty in the too much praise of it, or at least too tedious to the Reader; for I my self do love matters in brief, and not of too long feigned circumstance: Therefore I desire thee, Reader, as I have taken the pains in Collecting it, so do thou spend thy labour in Reading it; and I'le give thee leave

to the Reader.

leave to spend thy Verdict. If it be worthy of thy approbation, and found acceptable to thy Fancy, return the Author but Thanks, who did endeavour so willingly to serve thee in this :

And he will remain thy
Friend, if deserv'd.

Tho. Howard.

But take this Verse with thee.

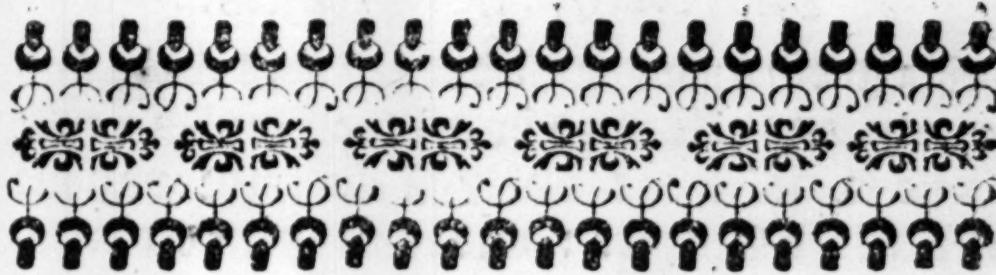
To learn to live, to read, to know,
Thou art commanded to :
To live, to learn, to know, to read,
All these tnings thou must do.

Then

The Epistle, &c.

Then learn to read, and read to know,
If thou wouldest learn to live :
And read to learn what I have writ,
which will not thee deceive.

THE



THE
HISTORY
Of the Seven
Wife Mistrisses.



Ometime in Rome there li-
ved a goodly and renowned
Empress, named Lucrelius, a
Lady of great Vertue and
marvellous Wisedome: She
was sole heiress born to the
Emperial Crown, and espoused the Son of
a King, who was a rich and glazious Prince,
and honoured above all others, being graci-
ous to his Empress, loving to his Subjects,
and amiable to all; She conceived by him,
and bare him a Daughter, named Sabrina;
the most fairest in all the world. This Sa-

B
being

The seven Wise Mistresses.

brina grew apacs most beautiful, lovely, and comly, and esteemed by all the people in that same Land, the enely Jewel throughout the whole Empire: and it happened that about the sixth year of her age, there was one Province within the King her Fathers Dominions, which caused many insurrections, mutinies, and rebellions to be made against their Sovereign, which required the King to make the more haste for suppression thereof, lest by their rude inducements they should gather together a force too inconsiderable for his strength to reduce; therupon he beat up his Drums, pitcht up his Royal Standard, and summoned all his Lords and Noble Barons of his Realm to appear, and with a mighty force hasted away to suppress the rude multitude which had rebelled; but the weather proving unconstant and various, and he forced in such full speed, through heat and cold, he chanced by the way to fall sick of a Feaver, and lying in such a desperate condition, without hopes of recovery, he considered more the education of his young Daughter, then the state and condition of his whole Empire, in reference to the innocency and weakness of her age: and therefore it induced him to write unto his

Em.

The seven Wise Mistresses.
Empress this following Letter.

Dear Lady, my Journey hath proved very ill-successful to me, for by the way I am taken sick with a most sad and grievous Fever; therefore pray make haste unto me, that we may provide for the education of our young Daughter *Sabrina*, and the State, and settlement of our Empire, for I am without hopes of recovery, and if you make not great speed you are never like to see me alive.

The messenger passed away to the Empress, and finding her walking in the Garden, expecting every hour news from her beloved husband, he bid reverence unto her, and delivered the Letter; the Empress broke it up, and reading what condition her Lord was in, fell in a swoond, to the astonishment of all her Ladies: but as soon as she had recovered life, she caused her Chariot and Horses to be made ready incontinent, and hasted both night and day till she came to her Lord the King, who she found almost dead, and she fell upon his breast, and kissed his clay cold lips, her rising half up in his bed with showers of tears betwixt each face, he to her spake thus.

The seven Wise Mistresses.



O my dear Lady, it joyes me that you are come, where with you I may impart all my troubled minde I am possest withall; since I may not escape this infirmitie: the natural love and care I bear unto you, and your young Daughter Sabrina, makes me sue unto you thus: first, that you cause her to be brought up with the best experiented and wisest Matron in all the Realm, whereby she might be tutored and well educated in all Arts and Sciences, befitting a Princess so nobly descended; and after that she hath attainted unto all those Vertues, I will that you take her home to your Royal Palace, and

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

and to habe recourse to your honourable Councel, whereby shs may perfect her self in all State and Tempozal Affairs: And thridly, that after your decease, shs may enjoy the Empire, and wear the Royal Diadem. And you my dear Lady, considering you ars old and well stricken in years, I will that you chuse by the advise of your Honourable Councel a wise and grave Senator to assist your Royal person in all things appertaining to the affairs of the Empire, and Guardian to your young Daughter Sabrina, till she come to Maturity. The grieved Empress answered, My dear Lord, all these things shall be performed, and done according to your will and request: then kissing each other, the King turned himself upon his pillow, and gave up the ghost; afterwards conveighed into his own Countrey, and his doleful Funeral solemnized, he was honourably interred in his own Chappel.

The seven Wise Mistresses.

Chap. 1.

How the Empress and her Council committed the charge of her Daughter Sabrina to seven Wise Mistresses, for her Education in all Arts and Sciences.

IT happened upon a time as the Empress was solitary walking in her Garden, she bethought her self of the death of her late Husband; and musing in her heart of the words he spake unto her at his last breath, concerning the State of his Empire, and especially his young Daughter Sabrina, whose onely delight in all the world she was, muttered in her heart and said, Now my dear Lord and Husband is dead and gone, there is but one in the world whom I take pleasure in, and that is my onely Daughter Sabrina, the very flower and glory of all other Virgins, and but she alibes to inherit my Realm after me, it is god whiles she is yong that she be set unto some wise experienced Matron, who is a holy and devout Virgin, to learn understanding, and to resolve Reasons when times might require her upon the Judgement Seat. Thereupon the Empress assembled all the Lords of her Council be-

The seven Wise Mistresses.

soze her, and demanded every one his advice concerning her young daughter Sabrina; and some of them gave their advice that the Empress should build a Tower within her own Castle, and cause to be put in there the young Lady, with five devout and wise Virgins to attend her, and two Philosophers which then lived in Rome, to instruct her in natural Philosophy, and other arts and sciences: but the other Lords of the Council would not agree thereto, and stood up, and said to the Empress thus; Most Sovereign Lady, this is not expedient that she should be in such a tower, nor in such a way instructed, for these things.

First, if sh: be in such a tower, your Pe-
bles and Ladies that frequent your Palace,
by too often visiting her, will make her
minde more the pleasures of the Court, then
to practice in her learning.

Secondly, Men tutores are not meet for
such a Princess so incomparable in beauty
as she is, for through too much familiaritie
and weakness of her tender years, great in-
juries may ensue, and her Princely Vertues
blained.

Thirdly, for her Attendants being but
five weak Ladies, and consequently not over

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

skilful, might for hopes of futurs addancement, to please the young Lady, give her too much liberty in yielding to her fancies, and thereby destroy the best time of her studience.

But gracious Lady, there is living not far from this City, in a fair and stately Cloister, seven Wisse Mistrisses, most cunning and expert in wisdom, answering all Reasons and Questions, and for their famous skill and learning excelleth all women in the world, the Empress hearing this accordeed to their advice, and sent her Letter of Hammions unto them, upon great penalties to appear before her Majestey: They anon came, and the Empress demanded the cause of their coming: they answered, we shall resolue you the cause, for we have seen it in a dzeam, which was this:

We saw a high and mighty tree, whose branches covered all the Realm, under whose leaves the beasts of the earth did shelter without number; and in an instant we saw it fall & dissolve, that nothing but the roots remained obdious: The Empress said, shew me thy meaning thereof: they said, the tree which we saw was our Sovereign Lord the King, the spreading branches signified his power extend-

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

extending over all his Empire; when the tree falling, it signified our Lord died, out of whose roots is sprung up a young Cion who shall rule the Empires with equity and honour, whose learning and education you will commit to our charge.

You have said right, answered the Empress, for my Lord is dead, and I have but one only Daughter in all the world who I commit unto you to instruct and conform in all good wayes and vertues learning, so that by your skill and wisdom she may attain to all good things appertaining to so great and noble a Patronage, &c.



The seven Wise Mistresses.

The first Mist: is named Halicusa, said, great Lady, commit the education of your Daughter to me, and I shall teach her as much wisdom Ecclesiastical and Civil in seven years, as I and all my fellows can all dayes of our lives.

Then stood up the second Mistress named Mardula, and said, Great Lady, I have tutored Emperors daughters, and instructed Queens both at home and abroad in all arts and sciences; therefore if you please to deliver your Daughter to me, I shall learn her as much natural Philosophy in six years as I and all my fellows have.

The third then addressed her self, named Cicre, and said, gracious Lady, I have been with you in strange Countreyes, and shewed you by my Art and Skill in the Planets what noble Prince should wed ye, and never asked any reward, onely this, if I may obtain that favour of ye, as to bouchsafe me the tuition and instruction of your daughter, I will inform her as much in five years as all the Mistresses in Rome can.

The fourth Mistress dwelt near the Empress, who was called Penchisilia, and said, Great Lady, I have been Governess to many Ladies, and have served you in your infancy;

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

fancy ; therefore if you will deliver your Daughter to me, I will train her up in vertue, and teach her as perfect in all arts and sciences in four years as I and all my fellows be.

The fifth Mistriss named Debora, then addressed her self, and said, O honoured Lady, I have by my skill and wisdom defended the City of Rome from dangerous and great invasions, and many times called to the Senate-house, where they have profited much by my counsel : yet the greatest thing I desire in the world, is to have your Daughter to instruct, and I will learn her to do as marvellous things in three years as I and all my fellow Students.

Then addressed the sixth, named Dejanara, and said, Dear Lady, if you commit the tuition of your Daughter to me, I will teach her as much as all can do in two years. And likewise the seventh Mistriss said, Glorious Empress, vouchsafe your Daughter me, and I will learn her as much art and science in one year as is in all the world.

Then stood up the Empress, and spake before them all, I render unto you many thanks ; for as much as I am obliged unto you all, but if I should commit the charge

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of my onely Daughter to one, and not to another for her education, the event would prove a great discord amongst you; therefore do I commit her to the charges of you all joyntly together, to teach and tutor in all learning, vertus, and wisdom, as best fits a Princess in such Royal dignity.

The wise and learned Mistrisses hearing the noble and generous expression of the Empress, knowing it to be but Justice, with a full and general accord they agreed together, and with great joy returned thanks to the Empress, so received her Daughter, and led her away towards a sumptuous Pallace some four miles out of Rome; and going on their way, Baodicia said to her fellows, if we should now instruct and teach this childe publickly, and grant her recourse to the pleasant Gardens, it would prove a hinderance to her princely studie: Moreover, the Egyptian Knights hearing of so great a beauty, might by chance, when we little think of it, steal her away by force. Then answered Mardula, Let us put her in the brazen tower, on which are seven locks, and let every one of us keep a key, and we will paint upon all Instruments of Musick, The seven liberal Sciences, that when ever she delightes to play upon

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upon the Musick, she might thers behold her Doctrine thereon, so that it may never be out of memory.

This saying pleased all well, and being done accordingly, the Mistresses used their best skill and diligence in attending the young Lady, for the space of seven years; which being expired, they appointed a day for to probe her experiance, in what she had learnt; thereupon they all consented, and for the trial thereof proposed these questions to her.

First, what number of Stars were fixed in the Firmament?

She answered, that number first created.

Secondly, when do the Planets begin to rise?

She answered, after they go down.

Thirdly, what knowledge made women wise?

She answered, the knowledge of good and evil.

The wise Mistresses hearing these wise and acute answers, said among themselves, doubtless this Lady will be a famous woman, and also will excel all her Progenitors.

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

Chap. 2.

How the Empress by the advice of her Lords, chose Radamentus her assistant in the Government of the Empire, and also Guardian to her Daughter Sabrina.

NOW about this time the Princes of the Land, with all the Barons, assembled themselves together before the Empress in full Council, for the election of a grand Consal, expert in the Laws and customs of the Empire, to assist the Empress in all Temporal Affairs, according to the will of her late Husband the King; and they chose one Radamentus, who was Uncle to the late King, a wise and cunning Politick, and one whom the Empress reposed great confidence in; that whatsoever he did enact or contrive she was ready to sign: to which the Peoples of the Land gave their general consent, for the better ease of the Queen, and their own future trouble. This Radamentus holding the Helm of the Empire in so great sway, he grew haughty and ambitious to mere honour, and thinking to himself, that the Empress was weak and sickly, and if she did die, 'twas probable he may take the sole

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

sole Government to himself, and rule as Lord and Emperour.

But understanding the Empress had a young Daughter, and brought up in the School of the seven Wise Mistrisses, and right heir to the Crown; he thought when she came to maturity she would out-wit him, and prove more craftier then himself: therefore from that time he daily sought her destruction. Now there was a Law at that time, that whosoever was found in Fornication or Adultery, were to dye by that Law without mercy; so upon a day, as the Empress and Radamentus were both walking in the Garden, Radamentus seemed to be very melancholly, and would not speak: the Empress seeing him so heavy, marvelled greatly, and asked him the cause of his sadness: who answered, Now the Realm is in full peace and quietness, there is but one thing I request of you; the Empress said, Ask what you will, it shall be granted to the one half of my Prerogative.

Then said the Consal, you have but one only Daughter in the world, and herress to the Empire, and she you cause to be detained between stone walls, wherein she spends the flower of her years only in thoughts and

con-

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contemplations, that what she (as a Princess) do there imagine within, the basest wretch in the world do see it actually abroad; therefore send for her to Court, that you may have consolation of her, and she may see the practice thereof, and have recourse to the Council. Then answered the Empress, I like your saying, for it is seven years since I have seen her; thereupon she wrote Letters signed with her privy Signet and Messengers to the seven Wise Mistresses, for to hasten away to the Court of Rome again such a day, and bring Sabrina the young Princess with them.

Chap. 3.

How the seven Wise Mistresses, after sight of the Empress Letters, by their powerful skill went to search the Planets; by which they understood the Design of Radamentus.

When the Mistresses had received the Empress Letter, and understood the Contents thereof, they fell to their books, and fathomed their skill, directing their Figures, and marking the Planets, if the cause of their going might be fortunate or no. And they found a great confagion among

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The seven Wise Mistresses.



the signes from whence they did predict that when they presented the young Lady, if she should answer any more words then one, her enemies would have power over her to betray her to the shamefullest death that may be; so they were very heaby, and mourned all the day long: about the evening tide, came down the young Lady Sabrina, to enlight her self upon the Musick, and seeing all the seven Mistresses very sad, she demanded the cause of their grief; who answered, O Lady, this morning we have received Letters from the Empress, that we forthwith to go to Court, and bring you along with us,

The seven Wise Mistresses.

and we have seen a Star that your journey will prove fatal if you speak any more words then one, which is Justice, that you shall say and no more for the space of seven dayes; and this is the thing which grieves us, that since we have nourished you for so many years, should now at the last be reduced to such a hazard.

Then said the young Lady, being full of vertuous learning, I have viewed the Firmament my self, and marked the motions of the lesser Stars, and found your saying true; but if you will hear my counsel, and receeves my advice, without doubt my vertue shall overtop their vices, and my cunning basoom shall exceed their crafty treachery: Then said the Mistresses, speak on your doctrine, we will hearken to it; and she said, I shall be accus'd of an evill person, and unjustly condemned: but if every of you seven can speak to my mother the Empress, each one her day for seven dayes together in my behalf, I shall escape my life: the Mistresses hearing this, they all accorded in a joyful harmony, and said among themselves, what joy is come to us, surely she will be an Empress of great fame and wisdom: so they cloathed her in cloth of gold and rich ornaments,

The seven Wise Mistresses.

ments, and provided a **Charlot** of Azure colour, drawn by four white **Steeds**, who gently pac't the ground like as they trod by some directed steps in the air; so with a train of pure Virgins she was accompanied to the **Empress**.

Chap. 4.

How the Empress hearing her Daughter was coming on the way, rode in great triumph with all her Princes and Barons to meet her.

When the Empress heard that the seven wise Mistresses of Rome were coming with her young Daughter Sabrina, she caused all her **Charlots** to be made ready, and with her **Heralds**, **Trophies**, and **Banners**, accompanied with all her **Nobles**, rode on the way to meet them: but said the Mistresses to Sabrina, it were good for us to depart and go into the City some other way, and diligently watch the Planets in their several motions, for the safeguard of your life, and the preservation of us; to this the young Lady willingly condescended, but remember me in my necessity, she said: so they departed, and the young Lady rode on her

The seven Wise Mistrisses.



way: but when the Empress saw her, she took her in her arms and kissed her, saying, O my dear Daughter, the onely delight I have in the world, whom God doth preserue so: fature blessings, how is it with you? now I hope you will be to me the flower of my eternal happiness, being conformed in all vertues learning, the fitter to sit upon my Judgement Seat after me: the young Lady bowed and did reverence unto the Empress, but spake not a word. When the Empress saw this, she blushed with very fear, some evill had befallen her, that she spake not; and yet she thought in her self, that be-
ing

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ing out of the Countrey so many years, leavin-
ing Strange Arts she might forget her natu-
ral language, and a thousand other things
came in her minds: And anon she asked her
again, what she had learnt so many years
with the wise Mistrisses of Rome, she an-
swered, Justice, so bowed her self, and spake
not one word more. Then the Empress ac-
quainted her Lords how and in what condi-
tion her daughter was in, and said, for the
evil the Mistrisses had wrought with her,
they should dye the most shameful death that
could be thought of; and when shs came to
the Palace, she took her by the hand and led
her into the great Hall, out of thence into
the Garden, and plac'd her by her in the Ar-
bour upon her own seat, and said, My good
Daughter, declare unto me the reason by
some certain sign why you will not speak, or
else here is a pen and paper, write to me
your minde; she took the pen in her hand and
wrote these lines.

Through Learning which doth me adorn,
I very plainly see,
The Star where under I was born
proves fatal now to me :

The seven Wise Mistrisses,

And I in bed have lately dream'd,
what after will ensue ;
That I three times shall be condemn'd
in Judgement-seat by you.

When the Empress saw these lines, she was astonish'd and wondered greatly, for she knew not the meaning thereof, how that she should give Judgement three times on her own Daughter, she wrung her hands, and mourned greatly; then came Radamentus the great Consul, and said unto the Empress, is this your Daughter which hath been brought up with the seven wise Mistrisses of Rome? the Empress answered, this is my Daughter and onely Heir to the Empire, but she now has no expression with her tongue: Radamentus stood still and beheld her, and saw her countenance so pleasant, and of such incomparable beauty, that the like was not in all the world, he burned inwardly with lust, and deceitfully said to the Empress, deliver her to me, and by often perswassion without doubt I'll make her declare to me her whole audience; this did he not onely for love and honour he bore to her, but rather to satisfie his insatiate lustful appetite, and after conspire her destruction, which was the main thing

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thing he aimed at, but God infused in the heart of the Princess not to go with him.

Chap. 5.

How Radamentus watched his opportunity how he might surprize the Princess in the Garden, and how he conspired to take away her life.

Radamentus after this, being in his chamber window, espied the Princess going into the Garden to walk under the Hickamore-trees, without any body with her, and it happened that she left the key in the dooz on the insids and forgot to shut it.

The old Consal came down and entered the Garden, locking the dooz, and taking the key out, he came to the Lady upon a sudden as she was contemplating under the tree; who at the presence of Radamentus, she began to blush, that there appeared in her face such a Crimson dye, that the malice of Radamentus was reduced into a dental lode: and thus he began to court her.

Gentle Lady, give me leave to tell ye, that the first time I saw ye, there was a fire kindled within my heart, and now your beauty begets another, which nothing can

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alas, except you bouchsafe me the fabour to let me sleep with you upon this bed of Roses, and repose our selves in the bosom of love : the Royal Princess turned about, and with a scornful gesture gave a repulse to his lascivious demand, which caused his countenance to fall, and his fancy turned to fury ; therefore he ran out of the Garden, and lockt the doore, and threw the key in again, and cryed out, that he saw the Princess with a man under a fig-tree, committing the foul sin of Fornication, as a breach of the Law, the shame of her Parents, and the destruction of her own soul. The Empress hearing this, was struck with horrour and amazement, to think that her onely daughter and heire to the Empire should prove so unfortunate : First, instead of Arts and Sciences, she should have been perfected with, she was delivered unto me speechless ; where I thought shes was adorned with vertues, shes is besotted with vice ; I woulde the day of her birth had been the day of her burial : so the Empress believed all that the wicked Consul had reported, and the Nobles that were present asked where he saw her, and he said, under a Hickamore-tree, but said, the man when he perceivd me, ran away, then

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The seven Wisc Mistrisses.

the Nobles hasted into the Garden, and found the Princess walking by her self, they asked her what man had been with her thers: She answered nothing. Then the Empress seeing it apparent that she was in the Garden as Radamentus reported, believéd all as was said; therefore in rage and choller she commanded her to be led away and burnt at a stake: but the Ladies which came with the Princess and other of the Nobility, adressed themselves to the Empress, and said, Gracions Lady, She is your onely Daughter, and all you have in the woorld, it is good, that sh: have a little respit, and you better consider of the master, it may chance to prove but a mistake of the Consul; for if you hastily thus put her to death, it will accrew to your dishonour, and ws shall gain reproach of all Nations; therefore let a day be appointed, and she appear in judgement, if she deserves death to be found by twelue men, and fairly condemned by the Law. At this the Empress bethought her self, being somewhat reconciled of her rashness, and committed her to safe prison.

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

Chap. 6.

How Radamentus complained against the young Princess, and how he accused her of Fornication, being death by the Law.

Radamentus finding his accusation took effect, no time was omitted for the prosecution thereof, for his insatiable spirit would not be satisfied till life and all was gone; therefore he came again to the Empress as a man in great sorrow and pain: and the Empress said, My grave Lord and Counsellour, what aileth you to be so heavy? O Lady, said Radamentus, how should I otherwise chuse, thinking what stain and defamation will rest upon this our Empire, because of your graceless Daughter, through her lascivious actions within your Court, as a common Whore; and if you let her live any longer in this foul sin, you will be counted no less your self, and rendered odious over all the world, for the rumour of people will be upon you, saying, what need we fear to break the Law, since the law-makers do violate it, the Daughter of the Empress is both a Whore and a Strumpet; and thus through her means we shall have vice sup-

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poised, and vertue oppressed: for what naed they care, since they have such evill precedents. Then said the Empress, to prevent all these evils, to morrow I shall sit in Judgement, and she shall dye by the Law. Then said Radamentus, see it be so done, lest it happen to you as it did to a Lady in Capadocia, of whom an example is mentioned. Relate the example, said the Empress. I shall incontinent, said Radamentus.

The first Example of Radamentus.

In Capadocia was a Lady who kept a sumptuous Garden, in whiche was one of the vertuousest wells in the world, that whosoever should be hit with any venomous beast; wash but in that water, they were immediately cured.

It happened on a day as the Lady was walking in her Garden a gathering of flowers, she espied in a corner of the Garden in the side of a little Rock, a small pell of water running fair and cristal, abundant more clear then the vertuous wel was, which caused her to imagine, that if the Rock were carb'd, there would issue a water more excellent then the well-water, and said unto the

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Gardiner, get me a workman that he may hew this Rock, whereby I may have a pretious Fountain here; and I give you charge over it, and to see it done. The Gardiner answered, your will shall be fulfilled. But another time the Lady came into the Garden, and viewed the little Spring; but it appeared not so strong in running as she thought it would: and she said, wherefore runs it not better? her man said, the original spring was deep in the earth, and had two wages, the one to the Well, and the other to the Rock; but that to the Well is greater, and by its strength draws more water to the well; and therefore its stream is so little. Then said the Lady, destroy the well then, for questionless this spring will prove the better water; so the Gardener dam'd up the vertuous water, that there was no more seen. And another day the Lady came again into the Garden to see her yong Spring, and taste the water, and it proved very sad and bitter; and having its course through a tin mine, whatsoever sick person did bathe in it, it would putrefie their soze, and augment their pain; so that all people did curse the Counsellours that did advise the Lady to destroy the vertuous well.

Then

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Then said Radamentus, understand you great Lady what I have said : yes, right well said the Empress, then said he, I will shew you the meaning thereof.

The Declaration of the Example.

The vertuous ~~Well~~, great Lady, betokeneth your self, and how that with your Vertuous and wise Judgements you govern the people with equity, that whosoever complaineth to you should have Justice and their sick cases mitigated ; and the young Spring so fair and cristal, is your graceless luxuriant Daughter, who will curse your Royal name to be blasted, and your vertuous Government despised, whose actions are bitter, running through a tin mine, that is, base and infernall carriages, not in Royalty of a Princeley parentage ; so that quickly she will break your heart, and reign after you, then all people will curse the Counsellours that advised you to let her live : therefore great Lady I counsel you while it is time, to cut her off and destroy her, lest the curse of the Empire follow you. Then said the Empress, all that shall not happen, for to morrow I shall sit in Judgement, and

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she shall dyes without fail. When the day was come, the Empress sate in Judgement, and commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt at a Stake, and as she was led through the City in a long smock of Lawn and a branch of Rosemary in her hand, and the Trumpets sounding her doleful Funeral, all the people ran out and wept, crying, alas, alas, the onely Daughter of the Empress is leading to death. Then came Debora the first Mistris passing by, as the young Lady saw her, she bowed her head, as if she said, remember me when you come before my Mother; and when she came to the Empress, and did reverence, the Empress said unto her with a stern countenance, Thou ungrateful and vile woman, how hast thou tutored my childe, I delivred her to thee well and hopeful, and now she is become the viceonest creature that ever a woman bare, surely thou shalt dyes as strange a death as may be thought on. Then said the Mistris, gracious Lady, the cause why she speaketh not, the divine powers know, and without cause it is not; and as for the sin of Fornication, we all can tell thee, that for the space of these seven years, we never saw the least motion, neither in thought,

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thought, word, nor deed ; therefore gracious Lady, if you do put her to death, onely for the accusation of Radamentus, it will happen to you as it did unto the Queen of Syra, who poisoned her husband through the perswastion of one wicked person. Then said the Empress shew me that example : Nay, said the Mistress, except you send for your Daughter back, otherwise, she may be dead before I make an end, then will it be in vain : upon which words the Empress sent for her Daughter again, and committed her to prison ; then the Mistress began as followeth.

The Example of the first Mistress.

In Syra lived a Queen of great renown, and of such excellent beauty, that a fairer woman was not in all the world, for which many Kings and Princes of Noble Blood came a setting to her, each man confident she should be his : This Queen delighted much in seeing Jousts and Turnseys ; therefore it was a day appointed, and they all assembled together to shew their valour before the Queen ; amongst whom was Crafus a most valiant Prince, and of such incomparable features and beauty, that his

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like was not among men. Upon this Prince the Queen fixed her eye all that part of the day; in whose sight he did such worthy acts, that deserved perpetual memory: and to be brief, he had the day of all the Kings, Princes, and Barons that were there; whereby he came off the Field with Trumpets sounding, and victorious Trophies borne before him. On the morrow after the Queen sent for him, and when he came he kneeled before her to have kiss her hand, but she refused, and in a comely deportment tendered her lips: The Prince being somewhat bashful, the Queen gave him farther encouragement, so that by little and little they grew in a wonderful familiarity; and soon after the Queen took him for her Husband, and made him soyn King of Syra with her. He was a wise and gracious Prince, and beloved of all his Subjects, all people joyed at his presence, the whole land sorrowed in his absence; never no Queen loved King better, nor never was Queen more beloved of a King: and it came to pass afterwards, that the King of the Parthians lay very sick, whose Son this King was, and he received a Letter from his Father to make haste unto him, that after his death he shuld take pos-

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possession of the Realm; and after a while he was gone, an evil Counsellour in his Court being in love with the Queen, intercepted all the Kings Letters that passed between him and his Queen, and informed the Queen he had married another Lady in his own Country; which raised such jealousie in the Queen, that she toze the ornaments of her head, wringing her hands, saying, O my dear Lord, what evill have I done, what word have I misplac't, wherein have I offended you, that another should reap the Consolation of your Love! The King in the mean time wondering he could never receive any Letter from the Queen, lamented, saying, O my Dear, wherein have I offended I can never bear how you do, nor how the affaers of our Kingdom standeth! All this while the wicked Counsellor intercepted their Letters on both sides to work the destruction of the King; and at last he invented a strong poison, and carried the same to the Queen, and told her it was of such a vertue, that if she would cause a King to be made hollow, and put a little of this vertue in it, and send it to the King as a token; and as oft as ever the King did look upon it, 'twould cause him to forsake all

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other women and hafte home unto her : so the Queen belived his wicked counsel, and was very glad , and without the aduise of any other she caused a King to be made as he had said, and put thererin this poison , and sent it away to her Husband : When the messenger came before him , he did him reverence, and presented the King to him ; the harmless King joyfully put it on , saying, 'twas the sweetest present he ever received : soon after his finger began to swell , and he sent for his Physicians, who said his finger was venomous with the strongest poison in the world, and said he must cut it off , else 'twould venome his whole body : Then said the King cut it off, which accordingly was done ; then his arm began to swell , and in like manner that was cut off to preserve his life : Then the good King groaned out this complaint, O thou vile woman, why hast thou done this to him who thou wert as dear to as his own soul , thou hast attempted that by poison which the stoutest Champion durst not do by arms ; I that hath won the the greatest glory that ever came to Syra, hast thou now destroyed with inferior poison, for which thou wilt gain reproach of all Nations, and be reviled of all women, for return.

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returning me malitious popson for pure inflamed lode ; but all as I can say is, ingratitude is the grandest insolency in the world, O woman why hast thou done this ? Thereupon he sunk down in his Chair, and gave up the ghost. The messenger hasted home, and told the Queen what had happened by the King, and that all the Counsellor had told her of the King was false : then the Queen fell a weeping and wringing her hands, saying, O what have I done, what have I done ? I have by the advice of an evil Counsellor slain my dear Husband the King ! O cursed Craytor, would to God I had ne're receiv'd thy wicked counsel ; but since I embraced thy hellish advice, with this hand that first handled the cursed King I will be revenged on my self, and so took a knife and thrust it into her breast, and so ended her life. Then said the Mistress to the Empress, understand you what I have said ? Yes, right well said the Empress, you have shew'd me a good example ; without doubt this day my Daughter shall not dye : Then said the Mistress, if you do so, you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your Daughters life this day for my sake.

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The second Complaint of Radamentus.

When Radamentus understood the Princess had obtain'd Pardon through the means of Hallicuja the wise Mistris, he retired to his Chamber, and seemed to grieve and lament extraordinary; but alas it was nothing but falsehood and deceit; so that he refused to come to Council: whereat the Empress was much troubled, and therupon sent for him and demanded the cause of his grief, and the reason wherefore he did not attend to Council: who answered, Great Lady, what greater pain can there be to a man, then when he is reviled of every vulgar tongue undeservedly; for all people know I am your assistant in the Empire, and think I am at the helm of Justice, where I do rather moze support wickedness then equity, and maintain vice where I should vertue; since of late there hath been whoredom and debauchery committed in the very Court, and the Empress own Daughter did it: what scandal is this that I shall lie under, beside your Royal Person will be defamed, and the honour of your Kingdom the object of the world; for you abstain Justice from

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from being executed upon that vile wretch your cursed Daughter, so that she liveth to the ruine of the Empire: therefore it shall happen to you as it did to the Queen of Pirus and her daughter. The Empress said, I pray you shew me that Example: why, said Radamentus, let me shew you never so many, it availeth not; nevertheless I will shew you this, which is as followeth.

The second Example of Radamentus.

IP Pirus reigned a vertuous Queen, her Husband being dead, she had one onely Daughter, whom she tendered aboves her life; this Daughter grew apace crafty and cunning, and often conversed with Sorcerers, to whom she complainted there was but one Nobleman which hindered her from having her will and liberty: said the Sorcerer, I'll teach you a way to betray his life, and then you may do well enough with your mother. Pray shew me that way said she, that I will said the Sorcerer, that is this:

When he is walking in the Garden, go you to him, and if he sit down, sit you by him, 'twill be a provocation to move his spirit, and as he doth proceed, then give him

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Inencouragement ; if he refuse you, cry out, he has ravish't you: So this impudent wretch sate by this Nobleman, and smil'd upon him and smote him with the palm of her hand upon the cheek, and said, come let us solace our selves in the bosom of love until the dark Evening : Then said the Lord, Great Lady, excuse me, for I am not furnish't with so much confidence as to deflower the Pearls of our Land. At which words this Lady tore her locks down about her shoulders, and cry'd out, alas, alas, what shall I do ! The Queen her Mother being in the window heard the cry, and looking out, espied her Daughter in the Garden crying and wring-ing her hands ; She sent down her Lords to know the matter ; and she said, this man, meaning the harmless Lord, hath constrain-ed me by force under yonder tree, and he hath deflowered me of my Virginity : The Queen hearing this said, surely he shall dye : Then said the Lords, it is good that you hear him before you put him to death : Nay, said the Queen, I have heard my daughter, what need we any farther witness, I will believe her testimony above all the worlds ; and therupon commanded the Lord to be led away and put to death, which accordingly

was

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was done. This Lord was the uprightest man and greatest Counsellor the Queen had; from this time forth shee alwayes sought the destruction of her mother: and thus she began, Great Princess and Mother, through my obediency and diligent care I bear to you, I would wish you to speake not unto every mean subject when they come for justice, but that I between you and them may deliver their message, for too much familiaritie will breed contempt; therefore the Queen reposing so much confidence in her daughter, thought all for good whatsoever she did do; and thereupon set forth a Proclamation, that all persons whatsoever having busnes at the Court, should address themselves to her Daughter; who alwayes sitting in an outward Chamber, as people came to her, she seemed very milde, amiable and courteous, so through her cunning and dissimulation all people took affections to her, and she would say to them, my mother is very rash being ancient; but if you will take me for your Sovereign, Ile do you justice according to the due administration of the law: at which words they were all very joyful, and promised faithfully to perfoirm it, but said she, raise your army, stand in your own de-

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gence, and plead your Subsidies and heavy burthens are too weighty for you to bear ; this do till you hear from me : so the rude multitude did as this Imp had advis'd them. Then away she went to her mother, and acquainted her there was a factious people had rebell'd, and it were good to prevent them in time least they should grow too populous ; so the Queen gave her the supreme Authority, in granting Comissions to raise an Army ; so when she had got the Seal, she told her mother she must have a great quantity of Gold to pay them : Then the Queen deliv-
ered two hundred thousand marks of Gold, and having got this money, she hasted with it all away to her factious Crew ; and there paid them all with her mothers own Treas-
ure, and gave them Comissions under her own Seal, that all the rest of the Subjects were in a maze ; for seeing their Comis-
sions under the Queens Seal all lay still, and not one moved for the Queen, thinking it had been no Rebellion : At last this new Army advanced towards the Court, and be-
ing come, this wicked Witch the Queens Daughter, hasted to her mother, and told her, that she by her fair speeches had allwa-
ged the fury of the people, and brought them
ther

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there to beg their pardon, which shs desired the Queen to grant them; which being al- ways betrayed through her subtle words, condescended; and as shs was going out to sign their Pardons, and conducted by her daughter, shs passed over a boarded Alley, where underneath was a Room and Cauldron of boylng Oyl, that this wicked Daughter had provided, with a board wheron her mother was to tread; tilting up, the Queen fell in, and thereby was destroy'd: And after was this wicked Witch proclaimed Queen, that through lascivious living and cruel Tyranny all Nations spighted her, and her own subjects hated her, that as she was coming through the City of Conbro, a Butchers man dash't out her brains with his Cleaver: The end of a Tyrant.

And Radamentus said to the Empress, un- derstand ye what I have said: and the Empress said right well, you have shew'd me a good Example; therefore to prevent these Evils that they shall not happen to me, this day my Daughter shall dye: And the second time she late in Judgement, and com- manded her Daughter to be led away to the place of Execution; and as shs was going, the second Mistris adressed her self to the Empress,

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Empress, doing her reverence, and said, O great Lady, if you will thus slay your daughter for the words of Radamentus, it shall happen worse to you then it did to the Lady of Barbra and her Lyon. The Empress said good Mistris shew me that Example, O great Lady, I shall not do it, except you call your Daughter back again until it be told, and if it does not turn your minds, your will be fulfilled afterwards.

The Example of the second Mistriss.

Upon a time there was a Lady and her Husband which designed a long Voyage by Sea, but the winde and weather proving contrary, they were driven to great distress, and constrained to lye a tedious while at sea, insomuch that all their provision was spent; then they continued a whole fortnight without any kinds of food, and when nature could not susteine no longer, they threw dice for their lives who should be kill'd first, to make meat for his Fellows, so they eat one another in order as they began, until all were eat; so this poor Lady and her Husband with force of nature and pure love hindred from killing each other: When they resold'd

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resol'd to dyg together, and so sowed themselves in one Carpet, and laid them down upon the Deck, saying, the great God of heaven and earth help them, and by that time they were lull'd asleep by the rocking of the waves, there chanced to come upon the Deck a great Giffin, that's half an Eagle, and half a Lyon, so that 'tis neither bird nor beast, but a Creature as strong as a Horse, and took up the Carpet in her claws with the Lady and her Husband as a prey for her young ones, and carried them into a strange Island, inhabited with Lyons, Bears, Woldes, and such like Beasts: When the Giffin had brought them into his nest, he and his young began to peck at the Carpet, with which they awaked the Lady and her Husband, who being a stout Hero opened the Carpet, and espied Land; and having his sword with him, came out and fought a desperate fight with the Giffin, and slew him and all his young. How to get off this Island they did not know, but in wandering up and down the man dyed, and then the poor Lady was alone, and comforted by none but God above; so wandering about the Wilderness she chanced to meet a mighty ys Lyon, whose roaring

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Seim'd to her like claps of thunder: then when she saw him she fell to the ground, saying, O greet Ichobah, who holdeth the power of all creatures in thy hands, have mercy upon me. So she drew near unto him, and discovered that he halte, and the Lion groaned towards her, as thought to have some help: so she ventered to him, and took up his foot, and therein was a great thorn; and the Lion patiently holding up his foot, she drew it out; which having done, the Lion fawned upon her, and lickt her, and in his nature shewed as great love and kindness to her as ever humane nature could: insomuch that he led her to his Den, where she continued for a long season, feeding upon nothing but what prey the Lion had brought her, and whiche way soever she walked, the Lion would attend upon her, and preserue her from all other savage Beasts. At last as she was mourning to her self, deploring her condition in living in such obscurity in a forreign Countrey, whose daily companion was but a savage Beast, her minde gentyng after her own habitation, she thus complained, O how hath fortune frowned on me, that I am driven out from among all humane knowledge, and am glad to

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to take my living with the Beast of the Field. As she thus complained to her self, the Devil chanced to appear unto her, and demanded the cause of her complaint, who told him all as you have heard. Then said he to her, What wilt thou give and I'll provide a Ship shall carry thee home to thy own Countrey? She answered, half her Estate. Nay, said the Devil, if thou wilt give me thy soul at the term of twelue years, I'll set thee in thy own Countrey, and thou shalt live and flourish so long: God forbid, said the Lady, I'll first end my wretched life in this solitary Island. Why then, said the Devil, I'll make this bargain with ye, that if you can abstain from sleeping all the time of our Voyage, which shall be but three dayes, I'll have nothing to do with your soul, if you sleep I'll have it, as I have said: and upon this bargain the Lady entered, provided she might have her Lion with her; so 'twas concluded, and a brave ship came and took in the Lady and her Lion: when she lay down the Lion lay by her, and if she slumbered, the Lion would touch her with his paw; by which means he kept her awakes all the Voyage, until she landed in her own Countrey; and being come to her Fathers house,

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house, she knocked at the Gate; then the Porter coming with all sped, opened the Gate, and saw it was a Beggar, frowntingly he shut it again, saying, Here's nothing for you: then she bounced at the Gate again, and asked the Porter if such a Knight lived there, meanting her Father, and he said, yes; then said she, pray deliver this piece of King unto him. Now this King was it she brake betwixt her Father and she, at her departure out of the Land: then the Porter delivered the King to his Master, saying, The Begger woman at the Gate willed me to deliver this piece of King unto you. When the Knight saw the King he fell down in a swound, but when he was revived he said, call her in, for she is my only Daughter, whom I thought was dead. Then said the Porter, I dare not call her in, for there is a mighty he-Lion with her, though it be, said the Knight, call her in, then said the Porter, you are to come in; but leads your Lion out: no, said the Lady, my Lion walketh where I go, and where he is not, there will I not be; and when she came to her father, she fell down on her knees and wept: her father took her up in his arms and kiss her, weeping as fast, and after he clothed

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clothed her in Purple, and plac'd her by him in a chair, and demanded the relation of her Travels, who declared unto him all that happened, and how the Lion had saved her life, and was the greatest comfort she had in the Wilderness. It chanced afterwards that as the Knight was going into his Wood to view his young Horses, he met with a wilde Boar, with whom he fell in combat with. The Lion lobed the old Knight, and by accident walking under the pale side, he lanted the Boar, and as the Lion ran towards the place where the Boar was, the Steward espied him, and he ran into the Palace, and cryed out, the Lion is running after my Master to destroy him. Then the Lady sent after him ten of her servants who met the Lion with his mouth all bloody, and they ran back and told the Lady the Lion had destroyad her aged Father. Then said the Lady, O woe is me that ever I was born, that have brought a Lion from far to destroy my own Father; therefore she commanded her servants to slay the Lion, which no sooner was done but her Father came in, and said, O I have met with a wilde Boar, with whom I fought, and there came in the Lion to my aid, and slew the

Boar,

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Boar, so saved my life, else I had dyed by the Boar. When the Lady heard this, & how she wept and wung her hands, saying, For the words of a wicked Steward, I have slain my good Lion, who have saved both my life and my Fathers, cursed be the time I was advised by him.

Then said the Mistriss, understand you what I have said: yes, right well, said the Empress, you have shewed me a good example of a bad advise, which caused the Lady to slay so good a Lion, surely I'll beware such bad advice, my Daughter shall not dye this day. The Mistris said, if you do so you will do well, therefore I commit you to God, and stand obliged to your graces for saving your Daughter this day for my sake.

The third Complaint of Radamentus.

When Radamentus perceived the young Princess was not dead, he kept his Chamber, and toze his hair, grieving very much, and saying, the State of the Empire lies groaning under the scandal of all Nations, and reputed as the very froth and scum of baseness; and as he was thus complaining, his attendants hearing him, went and

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imparted it to the Empress, and she went to him and asked the cause of his lamentation, who answered, O great Lady, how can I other wise chuse, knowing so great a crime that lyes upon the Empire, through the debonair and lascivious actions of your graceless Daughter, and yet cannot have Justice executed upon her, whereby we may wash away the stain that rests upon your honour & my reputation, the world knowing I am your assistant in the Government; & seeing there is no more respect and observing of the Laws then there is, I have just cause to leave your Realm, and suffer you to plunge your self in this deluge of ignorance, but that the love I bear to you, and your good Subjects, doth prohibit me from it; and you know great Lady, if I should depart and leave you to your self through your weakness in believing old fabulous stories, it would tend to your utter ruine and destruction. Then said the Empress, Most grave Lord and Councillour, pass by your sorrow and lamentation at this time, and I shall never fail you of your request hereafter, but be advised by you: Then said Radamenes, pray God you may, else I fear it will happen to you as it did to the Lady and her Cat in the Kingdoms of Ut ergo, who ten-

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dered her Cat as she did her own life, till at last the Cat cut her Ladies throat. I pray ye, said the Empress, shew me that Example, that I shall gladly do, said Radamentus, for the furtherance of your knowledge, and it is this as followeth.

The third Example of Radamentus.

In the Kingdom of Utergo there lived a Lady who had but one onely Daughter, whom she loved above her own eyes, and hearing there was a very learned woman, and one of great repute, lived not far from her own Court, to whom she put her Daughter to be brought up, and instructed in all Arts and learning, and it proved that this learned woman was very skilful indeed, for she was the greatest Magician in all that Land, though unknown to the Lady, so that instead of teaching the childe natural Philosophy, she taught her all the whole art of Necromancy, and at the end of seven years she learnt her how to transform her self into the likeness of a Cat; and upon a time the Lady sent for this learned woman to come to her, and bring her Daughter with her, for to see how she had improved her self in learning,

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ing ; and being come , the Lady asked her Daughter, three questions : First , what was most prone to nature when it was satisfied ? She answered, ease, for when the belly is full, the bones desireth rest. Secondly, how far it was to the bottom of the Sea ? She answered, a stones throw. Thirdly, She asked her how long the Sun and Moon were going round the world : She answered, fower and twenty hours : then said the Lady, you have answered me well, doubtless thou wilt prove a cunning woman : then she walked in her Parlour, and shewed the Mistress what a delicate and fine Cat she had, and the Mistress said of a truth, it is a brabs Cat ; but after I return home I will present you with the finest Cat that ever was seen, for she will wait at the Table, and can interpret Riddles , resolving Answers and Questions , so that there is not the like of her in all the world. Then said the Lady, pray ye let me have that Cat : that I shall not do , said she , except you suffer your Daughter to be with me ons seven years more, then shall I present you with the Cat ; the Lady very willingly gave consent thereto, rendering great thanks : so the learned woman took leave, and away departed.

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ted with her young Disciple, and when she came home, she told her, that if she would act her part, she would teach her how she might enjoy all the pleasure the world did afford, and none was more ready to learn than she was. Then said the Magician, you must transform your self to the likeness of a Cat, and I will present you to your Mother, to which they both accorded: then the Magician took her, and hasted away to the Lady; and presented her the Cat, being of four distinct colours, black, red, green, and yellow: Then said the Lady, this is the finest Cat that ever I saw, and took it into her lap, feeding it with white bread and milk, and would never sit down to meat but her Cat must be at her elbow; so the Magician took her leave again, and the Lady gave her great thanks, so departed: soon after this, the Cat began to play her pranks, for there was a maid living in the house, whose carriage was civil, and conversation honest, and a faithful servant all dayes of her life: this Cat had power to open any lock, and shut it again, so she would open the Ladies Cabinet, and take out money, and lay it in the way wheres the maid should finde it, some time in the Garden, some time in the Street,

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Street, and the Lady still missing her money, and having no suspicion on the Maid in the least, wondered what should become of it; at last she lost her Bracelet out of her Closet, which the Cat had took and laid a mile from the house where the Maid should come along; so the Maid when she found it, little thought of her Ladies Bracelet, whiche oftentimes had been inquired for, she put it up in her Trunck; and after upon a time, as the Maid was taking out clothes, her Lady stood by her, and it chanced that the Bracelet fell besids the Trunck, and the Cat snapt it up in her paws, and leapt upon the Ladies lap: when the Lady saw it she cryed out, O thou graceless creature, I bless the Lord I have found thee out, have I kept thee for so many years, and intrusted thee with all I had in the world, and never had the least suspicion of thee; God knows what thou hast robb'd me of in thy time. O thou wicked wretch! now thou shalt dy the shamefulllest death as may be thought on. Then said the Maid, what have I done, I never offendid you in thought, word, nor deed, neither ever wronged you in all my life hitherto: O villain, said the Lady, is not this my Bracelet, I have lost for above

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this half year , and here I have found it in thy Trunk ! God knows what thou hast rob'd me of besides , for I have lost a great deal of money ; then she call'd more company in and searched her Trunk further , and found many pieces of money , which she knew by the marks ; and when they saw that , they apprehended her , and sent her to prison for all dages of her life ; so the Lady continued her love towards the Cat , and would never eat of any dainties at her Table before she had cut her Cat the first bit ; at last it happened that she late at Dinaer and forgot to carbe first to her Cat , wherefore she leapt to the Ladies face and catcht her by the throat , that had it not been for the help of some at the Table , the Cat had kill'd her : Then said the Lady , Ile keep this Cat no longer ; then it is good said her friends to destroy her : No , said she , for the sake of the learned Mistris which gave her me ; then she returned her back from whence she came , and desired to have her Daughter home ; when her Daughter came she took her in her arms and kissed her , and caused her to lye in bed with her every night , and in token of a motherly love to a child , she gave her a Ring of her finger out of

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love to wear, which King she had kept so many years ; and it happened after that this Daughter proceeded in her wicked art of witchcraft still and could not break from it : So there was a Mill of the Ladies not far from the house, and every night this Daughter when her mother was asleep, would go with others of her rabble, and at dead time of the night set the Mill a going , ripping the bags, and throwing all the Corn about the flour ; at which the Miller wondered greatly, and complained on the morrow to the Lady and many others, saying, his Mill was haunted by evill spirits , doing great mischiefe, that he was like to be undone ; and they counselled him to watch up one night with a gmd sword and a light to see what it was ; and about midnight there came in at the window a great Cat to his thinking, by and by another and another, till they were half a dozen, spitting and wawling like devills, and their eyes shining like coles of fire ; then the Miller struck at them , and they flew at his face, and in short time destroy'd him : On the morrow the Lady sent to the Mill to see how the Miller fared, and they found him dead, with his face and throat torn all to pieces , the next night another

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watcht, and on the morrow they went to see how he sped, and they found him in the same condition ; then they all marvelled greatly, so that none woulde lye in that Mill. At last there came a stout fellow, and he woulde undertake to lye in the Mill all night if the Lady woulde gibe him the Mill, she consented, and away goes the fellow, with a great Sword and Candle, and entered the Mill ; so about the old hour he heard the Mill at work to the purpose ; so he took his Sword and Candle in his hand, and went down out of his Chamber to see what guests he had got, and when he came into the Mill he saw nothing, but the Mill stood still, and as soon as he had entered his Chamber, the Mill was at it again as hard as 'twas before ; then he ran back again with his sword drawn, and there he beheld six great Cats and one little one, with such sparkling eyes gleaming upon him, that he ne're saw the like before ; whereupon he struck at them, and they leapt at his face, and on every sids of him, that he was fain to lay about him lustily to defend himself ; at last he wounded two, and they fled through the window, and the rest fought so furiously, that they put him almost out of breath, but in the end they

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they all fled through the window, and he following close, smote the last and cut off her fore-foot; and so when day came, he went to look for the foot, and it proved to be a hand with a fair King upon the finger; when he saw that, then he knew they were Witches, so took on him little, and went home to the Lady, who asked him how it fared with him? He said he was never so hard put to it in his life; how so said the Lady? why said he, there came seven Cats, and set the Mill to work as well as I could, and if I had not defended my self stoutly, I had been slain by them, but in the end I made them fly; and as the last went through the window, I cut off her fore-foot, look here it is: When the Lady saw that, she knew the hand by the King, and she remembered that night, when she awak'd she felt her daughter come in the bed all in a sweat, and very cold; with this thought she was stricken with a fear, that the drops of sweat trickled down her face; so she went to the bed-side, and asked her daughter how she did? who said, I am not well, pray let me alone; her mother said, let me feel your hand, how your pulses beat, and she gave her the right hand, keeping the other arm in the bed, and her

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her mother said, give me the other hand, and she would not; then her mother went to see by force, and there was no hand; then her mother knew what Cat she had kept before, and said thou shalt dye by the Law before thou doest any more mischief. O graceless villain, what shame hast thou brought upon me for having such a wicked child; so she was sentenced to be burnt at a stake, and as she was led to execution, she confess'd how she had stoln the money and bracelet, and laid it where the maid found it, so to be accus'd of theft and hang'd unjustly; but at last she was burn'd to ashes at a stake, and the innocent maid redeemed out of prison.

¶ Poto said Radamentus, understand you what I have said & yes right well said the Empress ; then said Radamentus I will shew you the declaration thereof.

The Declaration of the Example.

Then Radamentus said to the Empresse,
Great Lady, I fear this will happen to
you and your daughter as it did to this La-
dy, who for the love of her only daughter
set her to School to be instructed in vertuous
learning, and she was tutored by a Witch in
all

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all the arts of Necromancy; in the first place she rob'd her mother, and caus'd an innocent maid to suffer the theft; secondly, in her filthy transformation, had she not been prevented, she had cut her mothers throat; thirdly, her horrid murther in the Hill; fourthly, the disgrace and shame brought upon her mother and family; and fifthly, the utter ruin and destruction she brought upon her own soul; and in the same manner do you labour to preserue your daughter, and suffer her to reign, in all her filthy and detestable wayes till such time the truth of all things breaks out, then be sure you will receive utter shame and disgrace, even to the ruine of your self and the whole Empire; therefore I advise you to cut her off while she is in the bud, lest she prove in the end to be a hard tree, and there is no cutting down of her. The Empress said, you have shewed me a good Example, the Lady giving her Daughter too much liberty, afterwards would have cut her mothers throat, and turned both witch, thiev, and murtherer; without doubt my Daughter shall not serve me so, and on the morrow she commanded her officers to lead her away to be burnt, who obey'd her command in all haste:

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haste: As she was led through the streets, attired in her winding-sheet, her Bible under her arm, and the trumpets sounding out her doleful knell, all the people cry'd out, alas, alas, the only Daughter of the Empress is leading to execution: and as they lead her, the third Mistress named Mardula came riding by; and as the Princess saw her, she bowed her head to her, as much as to say, remember me; all the people cry'd out, saying, O good Mistress make haste, and by your famous wisdom save your Disciple: so away she passed and came before the Empress, doing her reverence, and the Empress said, O thou ungrateful Traitor, thy coming availeth thee nothing, for thou shalt dye as bad a death as my wretched Daughter, and I long till I be avenged on thee and all thy fellows. Then said the Mistress, I thought when I came to have been better treated, and not to be upbraided in this kinde as I am: The Empress said, do you not deserve death, when as I delivered you my daughter well to be instructed in vertuous learning, and you have delivered her again unto me dumb and graceless, whose lascivious actions sounds all over the Empire: then said the Mistress, in that you say she is dumb,

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dumb, I commit that to God, for he maketh the dumb to speak, and the deaf to hear ; and as you say she is a lascivious creature, I fain would know if the eye of man ever saw, or tongue can justify any such thing : therefore gracious Lady, if you put your Daughter to death thus hastily for the words of one man , it will happen to you as it did to a Knight and his God-son, which is mentioned in an Example. The Empress said, pray shew me that Example, and the Mistris said, that I shall not do, but if you will cause your Daughter to be brought back again from death, then shall I gladly shew it you, which in time to come you will say 'tis a true one. Then the Empress commanded her daughter to be brought back and put in prison : and the Mistris began as followeth.

The Example of the third Mistris.

IT came to pass upon a time , that as a Knight was travelling through a strange Countrey , he chanced to lose his way in a Wood, and could neither discover Churches nor Towns, the night being so dark, and he a stranger, knew not what to do, nor whither to go; and as he was complaining to himself, a

Wood.

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Woodmen issued through the thickets, hearing his complaint, and demanded the cause of it. O friend, said the Knight, I am a stranger to the Countrey, and I have lost my way, and know not whither to go for accommodations for me and my Hoſe, whiche is almost lost in the Brambles of this Wood. The man said, Sir Knight, it is far to any Inne, and the wages are bad; but if you please to go with me, I shall bring you to my Cottage, and give you the best accommodation it doth yield. The Knight courteously returned him thanks, and went along with him, and when he came home, shewed the Knight a Chamber, and provided for his Hoſe: but the Knight through discontent of his Journey did not go to bed but late up, and about midnight he heard a great cry in the house, he being in such a lone house began to fear some danger might ensue, and so knocked for to know what that cry did mean; and the Maid answered, that her Mistrisse was in Travail, and the Midwife was with her. This Knight being skill'd in Astrology, went down to ſee how the Planets did ſerve, it being a bright Star-light night, and he ſaw a bad Planet going down, and a good one rising; ſignifying, if

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the Childe was born under that, his fortune
was to be hanged; therefore he called the
Maid and bid her tell the Midwife to hold
her hand one quarter of an hour, and the
Childe would be born to good fortune: the
Maid came out again, and told him, that it
could not possibly be: then he bid her go in
again, and tell the Midwife to stay but one
half quarter of an hour, and the Childe
should be born to good fortune, she came out
again, and brought him word, that her Dame
was delivered of a jolly Boy which was un-
der the bad Planet; then the Knight went in
and said nothing concerning the birth of

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the Childe: but on the morrow the Father of it came to him, saying, Sir, since you have vouchsafed to lodge in my house all night, be pleased to honour us so far as to name my Childe, who answered, that I shall gladly do. And when the day was come he named the Childe, and w^rit in a bit of Parchment his destiny, with a charge also, that he should pray to God continually to acquit him from that sad sortuns, so he sealed it up in a piecs of wax, & tyed it about his neck with a Silk String, charging his Father and all his frsnds not to untye the String to read what it was, till such time the Childe was able to read it himself, desiring them to keep him at School very carefully, whereby he may attain to that knowledge as to read the writing perfectly himself; and thanking the Father for the favour done him, took his leave, and so departed. When the Childe was grown up and fit to be instructed, he was put to School, and very carefully attended till he was ten years of age, at which time he was capable to read the writing that was about his neck: and upon a time as he was by himself, he took it off his neck, and opened it, and read it, wherein he found his destiny written in these

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these words, My good Childe, serve God, and pray to him continually to pass this fate over thee, else thy fortune is to be hanged. When the Childe had read this, he lifted up his eyes to heaben and begg'd a blessing from the Lord, and went home very sad and melancholly, and desired of his Father to givs him one new suit of clothe, and a little money in his pocket, and his blessing ; his Father asked him the reason of his request : then said the Childe, pray givs it me, for I will go seek my fortune ; his Father did accyding as the Childe required, so he took

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leade of his friends, and parted from his Father. Well, go, said he, and my blessing with thee; so the Boy travelled into a Strange Countrey, still praying to God to acquit him of that unhappy fortune to which he was predicted to; and at last he came to a Knights house, and required a service, the Knight asked him what he could do, he said, sweep your Hall, draw Beer, and run upon your Arands, and what other service I am able to do. The Knight saw him a hopeful boy, and very willingly entertained him, and he proved marvellous careful and diligent in whatsoever he took in hand, and at all

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all spare times he would be upon his knees at prayers, desiring God to pass that unhappy fate over him. The Knight observing this, soon after plac'd him under Buttler, and there he continued in the same rule, praying to God continually, whereby the Knight had a great discerning eye on him. In this place he had not been many years, but the head Buttler dyed, and the Knight put him in his place, and being there he was obedient to his Master, courteous to his fellow serbants, & pleasing to all, but the baker and the brewer murmured greatly, saying, how may this be, yonder fellow was taken up as a poor beggar boy at the doo; but the other day, and first he was under Buttler, now he is head Buttler, what will he come to: but this past on, he grew in favour still, and being a Schollar, his Master made him under Steward, which place he discharged with great trust and faithfulness; then his two adversaries murmured ten times more, yet he grew in favour more still with the Knight, till at last the head Steward dyed; then he was preser'd in that place, and from that time forwårds his adversaries sought his destruction: yet when he was in this place, he never waxed proud nor ambitious, but al-

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ways trusty, humble, meek, and lowly, and when he had served in the place of head Stewardship the space of five years, he had a minde to go see his own Countrey, and therefore delivered up all his accounts just and square, he asked leaves of the Knight, who granted his request very willingly, and lent him a Horse, and gave him great stoe of money to go with, saying, Thou hast been a just and faithful servant to me, go, and my best word with thee; and when his horse was tyed at the doore, and he ready to depart, there came to him the Baker and the Brewer, deceiptfully to take their leaves of him, saying they must drinke with him before parting, and as he was drynking with one in the Cellar, the other opened his Postmantle, and put therein a great Gilt Bowle, and so shut it again: then he went and drank with him, and so departed; but he had not been gone above a mile, but these two fellows made inquisition for the Bowle, and the Knight asked who should have it, who should, said they, but your trusty friend and servant, that is newly gone, who hath been as very a thise as ever breathed since he came to you, and has robb'd you dailly, though you would not believe it; therefore you will not belieds this

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this except you saw it, therefore pray ride along with us, and we'll bring him back again, and that you shall see he has the Bowl: so the Knight rid after him, and overtook him, and prayd him to come back, for he had a little busyness with him; so when he came, they searched his Poyntmantle, and found the Bowl: when the Knight saw that, he admittred it, and said, O thou wicked wretch, I have been told how thou hast rob'd me dally, and impoverished my Estate, but I would never believe it, now I see it plainly with my eyes, so which fact thou shalt be hanged at the Gallowes.

The young man stood up, and said, of this fact I am innocent, and thou eternal God, who holdeth the secrets of all men hearts in thy hands, knows that I am guiltless, send me justice now, O great Lord of heaven and earth, that thy everlasting truth may take place, and this hidden treachery be brought to light. And as they were leading him away to prison, he said, Well, now I perceive that Fortune is a Fortune, let the world go how it will; and his Master hearing him, said, what mean you by that? and he said, when my Mother was in Travail of me, there was a strange Knight lodged in

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the house, and did forese my destiny by his art in the Planets, and at the request of my Father he was my God-father, and then wrot in a little piece of Parchment my sad fate in these words following; My good childe, serve God, and pray continually that thy sad fate may pass over thee, for thy fortune is to be hang'd: and he sealed it up in wax, and tyed it with a silk string, and put it about my neck, charging my Father, that no one should read it till I was capable to read it my self; wherefore I came to travel, and also obeying the words, and praying continually to God to escape it, I see it doth follow me undeserved, as you now see. The Knight hearing this, demanded to see the piece of writing, which specified his destiny, and he took the string from about his neck; and gave it the Knight, who as soon as he saw it, he said, O the mercy of the eternal God of Heaven, whose love to his servants is incomprehensible, this is my own hand-writing; I wrot thy destiny, and I am thy God-father, O bring him back again, let us examine the cause better; then he called the two false accusers before him, and strictly examined each of them, threatening sad punishment if they would not confess,

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selfs, and at last they confess it were they stol the Cup, and put it in his Portmantle; for whch they were both hanged, and the young man saved: And then said the M^r Artis, understand you what I have said: yes, right well, said the Empress, Now I do perceve that very often the wicked commis- feth the fact, and the innocent are Condemned. You have shewed me a good example, therefore my Daughter shall not dye. Great Lady, said the M^r Artis, if you do so, you will do well, and I thank ye for sparing your Daughter this day for my sake, and there- fore to God I command you.

The fourth Complaint of Radamentus

W^HEN Radamentus heard the young Princess was not dead, but rather pardoned, he walked up and down the Gar- den like a man bereaved of his wits, and made great lamentation; the noise thereof came to the Empress ear, and she went in all haste to him, and comforted him, saying, My grabe Lord and Counsellour, why makes you this moan: it behoveth not a man, es- pecially such as you are, so rarely well dy- nised in wisdom and discretion, to groan

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ent such sad complaints? O Madam, said Radamentus, why should you tell me so, will it not make a stony moor, or a wall of brass speak, to see that your judgement is so much stupified, as not to be advised by my grans Counsel, knowing no man ought to tell you more then my self, that you suffer such pestilential feavers to remain not qualified nor oppressed: O that I had dyed before I had been elected to come into these parts, for what honour or reputation I ever gained formerly, I shall now receive ten times as much shame and dishonour; but I fear it will happen to you as it did unto a Lady in Thesaly with her Deer, which is mentioned in the Example. Then said the Empress, I pray shew me that example for my learning, I may be the better instructed. If I should, said Radamentus, it would avail nothing, for I shewed you one yesterday last, and it came to no effect; nevertheless I shall shew you this, which is as followeth.

The fourth Example of Radamentus.

Sometime in Rome there lived a great Lady which had a famous Park of Deer, that a wortlier was not in all the land;

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land ; she had also a very gallant Hound, which was presented to her by the best Huntsman in the world : and this Lady delighting much in hunting, appointed a day for the tryal of this brabb Dog ; and when the day was come they rouzed a Buck, and followed the Chase, up the Hilles, down the Dales, through the Thickets, Bracks, and Boggs, the like hunting ne're was known in that part of the world, for the Dog hunted upon hot sent seven dayes together, till all the followers were tyred both foot and horse, and left the whole Game to the Dog ; yet still the Buck maintained his ground, and the Dog his Chase, throughout the Kingdom of Thesaly three hundred mile an end ; the Lady and her noble Barons gave off all for lost, some of them cryed, we shall never see the Buck again ; said the Lady, I shall never have my Dog again : and when they had yielded all as lost, there came a Letter from the King of Egypt, he knowing her so delightful in Hunting, and the tears of it was, that there came a Buck chased by a Dog, through some part of his Domintions, and that they were come into the Kingdcm of Thesaly : The Lady hearing this, said, Doubtless, this Dog and this Buck by all

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all description should be mine, and as she was thus musing, the Keeper brought in word that the Buck and Dog was come; then the Lady rejoiced and ran into the Park to see the Buck and Dog, and there they found the Buck leapt just over the wall, and fell down, and the dog ran to the wall, and he fell down, only wearied, but not to death: then said the Keeper, this Buck is the best runner in all Thesaly; and the Lady said, this Dog is the best in all the world, and therefore all the Nobles and Barons that ever came there a hunting prattled that Dog and loved him wonderfully. Now there was an observation on this Dog, for he loved the Park ever after, and the same buck he before chased above all others; so that he was observ'd to go every night about midnight, to defend the Deer from any ravenous beast which should chance to come, as Wolves or such like Creatures, and this did he constantly upon his own accord, so that such a Dog was never heard of before. And it chanced after, that the same Huntsman which gave the Lady this brabb Dog, presented her with another wolf-dog, young and tender, and of a most curious shape and form, which also won the affections of the Lady marvellously, so that she loved him as

she

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She lov'd her life ; and whosoever should tell her that this wolf-dog would prode the better Courser, she would rejoyce, and givs them great rewards ; so that her love to the Henne began to decline, for he was wont to quarell with her young dog, being of two contrary natures, for which she would kick him and much reseech him ; but the young dog grew apace well formed, fair and comely : Not far from her Court lived seven wise Mistresses, whom she sent for to pass their judgements upon this young Dog, what



they thought of him ? And the first said , it was the fairest dog that ever she saw , and it would make a good Courser ; then the second said ,

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said, it was the comeliest Dog that ever she saw, and he would make a stately keeper; the third said, it was the tallest Dog that ever she saw, and would be fit for a Princely Game; the fourth said, it was the strongest Dog that ever she saw, and would be a brave companion in a forest; the fifth said, it was the furtest Dog that ever she saw, and was fit to keep a treasury; the sixth said, it was a dog in her judgement exceeded all others; and the seventh said, it was a Dog, if well taught and preserved, would parallel the whole world for his equal. Then said the Lady, I thank you all for your great accommodations you give of my dog; therefore I shall prize him as I do the greatest Jewel I have, but I have an excellent Hound besides, which on his own accord doth watch my Deer every night, and preserves them from the Wolves, and the like savage beasts, and they two can never agree. Then said the first Mistris, the Hound is something ancient, and probable might not live long; the wolf-dog is young and lusty, and the best of his dayes are to come; and since they cannot live both together quietly, it is expedient one should dye, therefore let the Hound be destroy'd: Then the Lady gave

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gab's commands that the Hound should be hang'd immediately ; and soon after the Hound was dead, many Deer were lost out of the Park, therefore they put the Wolf-dog to watch, yet for all that a Deer in two of these nights was constantly lost, and still the Lady wondered how this might be, and the Wolf-dog watching too ; so she put a man to watch all night in a tree, to espy out what beast came to destroy her Deer, and by the light of the Moon he discovered the Wolf-dog upon a lusty Buck, having tore his throat ; when the morning came, the Lady sent for him to know what he had seen ; and he said, I have seen what it is that kills the Deer now : declare said the Lady what it is , and he said , it is even your own Wolf-dog, whom you put to watch them ; then the Lady looked sad in the face , and began to complain greatly, saying, Alas, have I destroy'd the Shepheard, and put a Wolf in his stead ; have I then through the wicked advice of yonder foolish women hang'd my good and trusty Hound, which looked to my Herd, and preserv'd them from the ravenous wolves ; the bravest Courser and flower of all Dogs in Thesaly, and have here put a ravenous martherer of my Deer to keep the Park :

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Park ; and with these words shs struck the Dog three or four blowes with her Cane, and the masterless Car grumbled as if it had been a Lyon ; and then said the Lady, how now Deer-killer, and smote him again, but before shs struck the fifth blow, he rear'd upon her breast, and slew her before the eyes of her serbants : Then all people cursed the Counsellours which advised the Lady to keep that evil Dog, and to kill the good Hound. Then said Radamentus, understand you what I have said : yes right well, said the Empress, then said he, I will shew you the Declaration thereof.

The Declaration of the Example.

THE Lady delightful in hunting, signifieth your self in all vertuous recreation, so that all Kings of the Earth do hear of your fame, as the King of Egypt did of her Game ; the large and spacious Park is your Empire, and the Deer thereto are your subiects ; the good Hound watching them, is your wise and good discretion, defending them from ravenous wolves, in keeping us in peace and safety from the bloody hands of cruel Tyrants ; the fair and masterless

Wolf-

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W~~o~~lf-dog is your stubborn and graceless Daughter, who by her ill examples and bad precedents will delude your good Subjects, and in the end destroy them as the Dog did the Deer ; the foolish women that counselled the Lady to kill the good Hound, and let the W~~o~~lf-dog live, is your seven wise Mistresses, which daily labour to advise you to suppress your vigilancy and wise ears of your Subjects, and let your filthy lascivious Daughter live, whereby she may reign in bloody tyranny, and glut her self with the flesh of your people : the man in the Tree that discovered the Dog in killing the Deer, was my self in my Chamber window, espying your Daughter that shameless wretch in the Garden under a tree something obscure, with a man committing the foul sin of fornication, and all other beastly behaviour ; for which detestable and abominable act she ought to dye according to the Law ; for if she live, she will by her ill wayes give base examples, and destroy many others : if then you correct her for it, she will like unto the W~~o~~lf-dog leap upon your breast, and cut your throat. Then said the Empress, that Dog the Lady loved so deedly cut her throat at last, but my Daughter shall not do so :

Then

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Then shē commanded her Officers to lead her away to the Stake ; and as shē was led through the Streets with trumpets sounding her doleful funeral, all the people ran out making a sad noise, crying, alas, alas, the Empress onely Daughter is led again to the Stake. Then the fourth Mistress leapt upon her horse, and hasted away to the Empress, and did obeysance to the Empress, who said, O thou cursed old wretch, little thanks shall thou have for thy ill instructing my Daughter, and bringing her to what shē is now gone to ; I delivered her to you finely taught, modest and well mannered, and you delivered her again to me ill taught, full of vice and dumb, and a shameless whore, for which this day shē is to dye, to the disparagement of the Empire, and disgrace of all her lineage ; I would the day of her birth had been the day of her burial. O gracious Lady then said the Mistress, I little thought of this entertainment, surely I have not deserved the least of this your displeasure ; and for why your Daughter speaketh not, I commit the cause to God, and in short time you shall know the reason, but the time is not come yet : She is accus'd she hath committed the foul sin of fornication,

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tion, that is false, and is not to be proved ; therefore you ought not to put your onely Daughter to death for the words of one single person, though it were Justice ; and if you put her to death for one mans saying, it shall be worse to you then to the Queen, who for puttynge too much confidence in Counsellours had her onely Daughter cut in pieces before the Altar, and her self after stoned to death. Then saide the Empress, declare that Example for my learning, that I shall not do, said the Mistress, unless you send for your Daughter back again, otherwise shes may be dead before I make an end, then should I talk to you in vain. Then the Empress commanded her Daughter to be brought back again and put in prison, whiles the mistress spake as followeth.

The Example of the fourth Mistress.

SOME time there lived in the Kingdom of Thracia a famous Queen named Hicubi, who built a strong City of defence, double wall'd, and moated round ; she was a peaceable Queen, and at variance with none, save onely the King of Lycia, being a quarrelsome Prince ; and he came against her

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with an invincible Army, and besieg'd her round; wherefore he call'd before her in Council her two Counsellors named Anthinor and Eneus; and they assembled all the noble Citizens to advise how to preserve their City, and give their enemies battell; and when they had fortifi'd their walls, and planted their Guards, Anthinor issued out with ten thousand men, and mads a great slaughter among his enemies, and so return'd back into the City; then their enemies recruited again, and fell on to scale the walls, but were driven back by the Citizens: then Eneus went out and fought with great valour, but lost many men, and so return'd into the Town. At last Anthinor addressed himself to the Queen, and told her it were good to conclude peace with the enemies, for they had lost many noble persons of honour, among whom were the Queen's two Sons, for which they mads great moan; and therefore he advised the Queen to conclude a peace, that the Enemies may depart without destroying the City, for they could not maintain it against such an invincible power, though the City was well fortifi'd, and strength enough to have beaten twice as many; yet the Queen
belie-

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believed these two evill Counsellors, which proved arrant Traytors ; then the harmless Queen asked them who they should habs to go treat for them ? Then Enens stood up and said, if it seemeth good to the Queen and to all you Citizens, for the honour of the Queen, the safeguard of our City, and the preservation of our lives, Anthinor and I being expert in all Lawes and Customs upon so weighty a matter as this, will go forth. The Queen liked well of what he said, reposing more confidence in them then any



other, and all the Citizens accorded to it : and Anthinor and Enens went forth and

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sounded a parley, and the Enemies Heralds came and fetcht them in ; and Anthinor said, we have wrought so about with our Queen, that we have obtained leave to come and conclude a league or truce with you ; but if you will grant us two our demands, as we shall ask of you, we will betray the City into your hands, to do with it as it seemeth good to you ; then they all promised to grant their demands. Then said Anthinor, you shall give us a thousand marks in Gold, and withall our Rights and Priviledges, and save all the lives of our Friends and Kinred, with the preseruation of all our Houses, Lands, and Possessions ; then said their Enemies, all these things are granted, and we are ready to swear the confirmation of it, whiche they immediately did : Then said Anthinor, we must be very private in this thing, for we must make a counterfeit truce with ye, and you must send this word in answer to our message, thus :

That you require a hundred thousand marks of gold to pay your Army, and ten thousand measures of wheat to make them bread, and to set up a brazen horse within the City in the Temple of Interva ; and this horse said Anthinor must be cast hollow,

where-

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wherein a thousand men may stand all arm'd, and when it is in the Temple, and you have receiv'd your gold and wheat which I will order; then you must draw your Army off the Town, as they may suppose you are going away: then when the Citizens think all is secure, and are in bed asleep, then shall the arm'd men in the brazen Horse come forth, and Eneus and I will gibe you the sign by a light off the wall; and when you see that, addance with all your Army on the back side of the Town, and we will open the Gates again you come; then do with the City as you see good, onely remember Eneus and I of our contract: and said Anchenor, with these words, we will depart, & acquaint the Queen of it, and we shall come sooth to morrow again to acquaint you of her answer; so took leave of them, and departed home into the City, and told the Queen what the Enemies requested, which was one hundred thousand marks of Gold, and ten thousand measures of Wheat, and they would depart home into their own Countrey, only they would leave behinde them a brazen Horse, which they had pruised as a memorandum of mark of Conquest. Even the Queen sighed deeply, and said, What, habs I less sa-

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many of my dearest friends, and so much of the stately walls of my City demolished, and now must I be constrain'd to pay so much Gold and Wheat unto my very Enemies, and hire them to go home into their Country: O woe is me that ever I was born! but since it must be so, go tell them Anthinor, I do grant their demands; then Anthinor and Encus went sooth agate, and said to the Enemies, your request is granted all what we havee constrived, and you are to appoint the day to receive it, that we may make it ready; and after you have that, then we'll be for the City: so the day was appointed, and all was got ready, they receiving it all, then they drew the brazen Horse into the City, and plac't it in the Temple, though little thought the harmless Queen what hellish place lay in the belly of the Horse. On the morrow all the Enemies drew off from the City towards night, and the poor Citizens supposing they were all departed towards their own Country, rejoiced all, and through watchfulness being up very many nights before, went to bed, and at midnight in the dead time of sleep, Anthinor went to the brazen Horse, and call'd sooth that thousand armed men, and Encus went upon the back

The seven Wise Mistrisces.

back fower, and held up in his hand a blaz-
ing torch, which gave intelligence to the
bloody Enemy; so they came and entered the
Town, that all the streets were full, and
then Anthinor and Eneus the bloody Cray-
tors shewed them their houses and Possessi-
ons, but for the harmless Queen in her Pa-
lace was no respect at all; and this Queen
had a fair and beautiful Daughter named
Palestina, the like was not in all the world;
the wicked Anthinor would have ravish'd
time before the siege, and the refusing, cau-
sed him to work this their utter destruction;
and as the Queen and her Daughter were at
prayers, they heard a woful cry in the City;
then they were struck with jealousies of the
wicked Anthinors treachery; so the Queen ran
into the Temple, and Palestina the young
Lady poor soul ran and hid her self in an
old Tower, by which time the Enemy had
not left alive neither man, woman, nor
child throughout the whole City. Then
Anthinor the Craytor came to the Temple,
and seeing the Queen there, asked wheres
her Daughter was? who replid, O un-
grateful Craytor, is not thy wicked bowels
glutted yet with tyranny? Then he went to
the old Tower, and there found her, and

The seyen Wise Mistrissee.

drag'd her out, and gade her to the Enemy, who led her to the Altar, and before her mother's own eyes they cut her in four quarters, and threw them about the Temple: the Queen at the horrid sight fell down in a swoond, and when she recovered itse again, said, Now Villains glut your selfes with tyranny, so tosse the haire off her head, and the clothes of her body, and went stark mad out of her sensses; wherefore the wicked Tyrants carried her into a strange Island, and there miserably slan'd her to death, and after burnt her City to the ground, and return'd home into their own Countrey. And then the Mistris said to the Empress, understand you what I have said: how a Queen by putting too much confidence, and took too much advise of two evill Counsellors, came at last to have her Daughter cut in pieces before her own eyes, her self stoned to death, her Subjects massacred, and her whole City destroy'd; therfore be advis'd, and put not your own Daughter thus to death for the words of one Counsellor, lest it happen to you as it did to this harmless Queen. The Empress said, you have shwon me a good Example, though it grieves my heart to think of it, for they were the wicked Counsellors that

gave

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

ever were, surely I will take no such advice; for my Daughter shall not dye. The Mistris said, if you perform that you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your Daughter this day for my sake, and so I commit you to God.

The fifth Complaint of Radamentus.

Radamentus hearing the young Princess was not dead, soothwith retired into his Chamber, sighing and sobbing most bitterly, and caused all his apparel and necessaries to be made ready, and his Wagons and Horses brought up, as though he was just going into his own Countrey: The servants perceiving their Lord was departing from the Court, acquainted the Empress that Radamentus their Lord was preparing for his own Countrey; when the Empress perceived that, she basted to his Chamber, and said to him, O my gracie Lord, I thought you had been more tender of my safety, and the Government of the Empire, then to go and leave me thus; to which he answered, 'Tis true, I tender your welfare as much as I do my life, and you know I have had a care of your reputation, and the safety

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safety of the Empirs, but now I see you are going in the high way to shame me, and dishonour your self, and ruine the whole Realm; the world knowing I am your assitant, and do think 'tis all my advice in what you do, supporting Watwy, and other vices, and in the very Court it self; had it been Merlus, the world had ne're taken notice on't; but being Alice, the tongus of every inferior fellow do noise it abroad like the breath of a Trumpet, or a Herald at arms, through all the parts of the world: therefore I go from you, for I had rather hear of your ruine then see it; you will be ruled by the words of the foolish Mistrisses, till at last it will happen to you as it did unto a Roman Lady and her Daughter, which Example is mentioned: and the Empress said, pray shew me that Example for my better understanding: And he said, though I shall shew you all the Examples in the world, and give you all the advice I may imagine, yea though it tend to the preservation of both Life and Kingdom, as indeed it doth; yet you would not be ruled by me, nor follow my counsel: nevertheless I will shew you this Example, provided henceforth, you do not delight nor hear the Mistrisses, whose idde

Fables

The seven Wise Mistresses.

Fables both subvert your wise judgement :
the Example is as followeth.

The fift Example of Radamentus.

Sometimes in Rome there lived a famous Lady, whose worth and renown was spread far and near, being beloved of all people, for she was virtuous in conversation, modest in behaviour, gracious to her people, and amiable to all ; and in reference to the poor, she was adorned with a free and bountiful liberality, so that she had the prayers of all : This Lady had two Daughters, both of them very beautiful and comely ; the eldest she kept at home with her, and the youngest she put abroad to be taught and instructed, having a motherly care, and in process of time, this Lady sent for her Daughter home, expecting she had learnt much for her edification ; but when she came home, alas, she was ne're the better, so she grieved very much for her Daughter, in regard of the hinder love she bare her ; and therfore she would keep her at home, being the youngest, and set the other abroad : which being done, this young Girle began to do nothing but play, having what liberty she pleased ; at

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at last she gred to maturity, and then she would not go abroad without monsey; therfore her Mother gave her money from time to time: at last she had wages to spend moze then her Mother allowed her if it had been twice as much, soj she kept a p̄tbat lobet in the City which her mother knew not of, and many nights when her Mother was asleep, she would rise and take the Keyes from under the Ladys head, and go out to her lobes, and towards break of day come in again, her mother never perceiving it, but towards morning she wondered how her Daughter came so cold, and asked her what was the reason she was so cold; she said, the Cramp had taken her in her leg, and being loath to wake her, she rose and walked about the Chamber to drive it away, so that excuse past for currant. The next night she awak't, and mist her out of the house, and wondering how she got out, put up her hand to feel for her Keyes, they were gones; so when her Daughter came in about break of day again, she asked her, O Lord Daughter, where have you been now: Truly said she, I had a tooth did ake so grieuously, that my jaw I thought would have broke, and you being so sound a slæp, I was loath to di-
sturb

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Starb ye ; theresoys I took the Keyes and went sooth to the Chyrurgion to draw it, but I could not make him hear me : so this second excuse past as currant as the former, and her Mother said no moze of it. Upon another time she espied her Mothers Key of her Cabinet, and she took it and prest it in Clay that it made an impression ; and from this impression she got another Key made whereby she could go to the Cabinet of money when she pleased ; and her Mother mis-
sing money so oft, iteis thought of her own Daughter, but sometime fatered the crime upon the Matv, sometime upon the Man, that the Family was never but in strise and vartance : and upon a time she went to her Mothers Cabinet for moze monsy, and went away and left her Key behinde her in the Cabinet ; her Mother seeing a Key in her Cabinet, and knew she had her own in her Pocket, let it alons, and watcht behinds the Curtain to see who would fetch it out ; by and by, in comes her Daughter, and snatcht the Key out, but her Mother caught hold of her, and said, O thou gracelass wretched, is it thee that hast robb'd me these two years together, now I have found thee out, O wretched imp ; I have been often told of thee, but

The seven Wisc Mistrisſes.

I would never belieue it till now I do ſee
it, ſo which thou ſhalt dye a shameſul
death: but there was living not far off, an
old woman, whom this young imp was wont
to take advice of in all her wicked pranks;
therefore in this time of neceſſity ſhe did
ſend for her to come, and by her craft and
cunning to ſave her life. When ſhe came
ſhe ſaid, O vertuous Lady, let not your
wrath be ſo furiously bent againſt her, ſhe
is your Daughter whom you haue boore of
your body, and gaue her ſuck nine moneths
from your breaſt, ſo we were all guilty of
faults in our infancy; therefore let her
not come to shame for the firſt time, the ſe-
ver's Law will giue repreſeſe to the verieſt
Felon for the firſt fault, much more a na-
tural Mother ought to do for a Childe; and if
ſhe ſhould thus dye, it will accreſe great
ſhame to her Family, and you will be brand-
ed with rebuke for tyranny: Upon theſe
words the good Mother was pacified, and
pardoned her. It happened afterwards as
the Lady was walking in the evening in
her Garden, ſhe eſpied her Daughter lying
with a ſtrange man under a Bush, then ſaid
ſhe, and cryed out with a loud voice, O thou
baſeſious creature, woorſe then any beast, I
haue

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have pardoned thee for Theft already, and now thou art fallen into Whoredom, if I suffer this, all people will curse me, and the Paps that gave thee suck; therefore thou shalt dye, for I had rather see thee hanged then I should be sound guilty of thy crimes. Then the old woman came again, and said, O good Lady, save her life, consider she is young, and what she hath done, is through ignorance and foolishnes; but remember the old Proverb, A naughty boy may make a good man, likewise she may amend and becomes a good woman; and remember what the Scripture saith, He that is without fault, let him throw the first stone; therefore let her shame be hidden this time, and if ever she commit the like again do your pleasure upon her: so through these strong delusions and foolish persuasions, the good Lady was again perswaded, and pardoned her, but said to the old woman, it is very seldom that any who are addicted to Theft and Whoredom, but commonly are guilty of Murder also, God grant that I never hear of no such thing by her, though I fear it greatly: to prevent which, the godly Mother kept her within doors so strict, that she could not go abroad to her lover to feed him with money

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ney as she was wont to do ; therefore he would come to her and speak to her through the window, where she threw him many of her Mothers pieces of Plate and other things ; then the Lady marvelled greatly how her things should be lost , and her Daughter never go out of doors , no farther then to the great window, where she did observe, she stood every night : and it came to pass that one night the Lady her self was standing under that window late, hearing the pretty Nightingale chirping her several notes ; and the Daughter supposing she had been her lover, threw out the great Silver Goblet ; the Lady perceiving out of what window it came, took it up and came in with it, and askt for her Daughter, and the maid said she was in the middle window ; call her to me, said the Lady , when she came , she bid her go fetch her some wine in the Goblet, and she said, she had been looking for that and it could not be found : then the Lady took the Goblet and shewed her, saying, Wilt thou never leave thy tricks , thou graceless villain , now shalt thou dye surely a shameful death, the just reward of thy deserts. Then news came again to the old woman that the Ladys Daughter was to dye , and

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and she came in all haste, crying to the Lady to save her life but once more, and she would undertake to advise her, and bring her to goodness her self: Upon this the Lady pardoned her once more. Now this Daughter loved a man which was poor, and both a Thief and Murderer, whom her Mother would not suffer her to marry with him without her consent; she had nothing to maintain him with, neither had he of himself; therefore she took counsel of the old woman what to do, who advised her to take a little of her poisoned ball, and when her Mother called for Beer, to put in two drams, saying, that will dispatch your Mother, then you may have all, and take your lover. The wicked Imp was glad of this advice, and did execute it; her mother having took it, called for some more drink, the poison wrought so hot in her guts: when she filled the cup again, she put in more, and the harmless Lady took it out of the hand of the bloody villain, as from a friend, so drank it up, and gave up the ghost, being aged fourscore and ten: for which horrid fact the wicked wretched was burned at a stake. Thus was a harmless Lady first robbed of her goods, and after murdered by a wicked Daughter the best

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loved. Then said Radamentus, understand ye what I have said, yes right well, said the Empress, that was the wickedest Daughter that ever I heard of; to prevent such mischiefs, my Daughter shall not lide a day longer: therefore she commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt, and as she was leading through the streets, the people ran out, and cryed, alas, alas, the Empress Daughter is leading again to be burnt; and as she pass by, the fifth Mistress met her, and hasted away to the Empress, doing reverence as the others were wont: then said the Empress, you are come, but it shall be the price of your life: the Mistress said, O Lady, I have not deserved to dye, for your Daughter hath not committed these crimes which ye say she hath done, as hereafter you shall finde; and that she speaketh not is of her wisdom, and know ye she will speak when her time cometh: and as for the sin of Fornication, beliade it not, for a wise Virgin as she is, would never attempt so shameful a deed, and if ye put her to death for the words of one man, it shall happen to you worse then it did the Queen of China. Then said the Empress, pray shew me that Example; that I shall not do, said wise Debora,

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bora, unless you call your Daughter back again else before I make an end your Daughter may be dead : then the Empress commanded her Daughter to be brought back and put in prison ; then Debora spake as followeth.

The Example of the fifth Mistris.

Sometyme in China laved a vertuous Queen, renowned far and near ; for whose wisdom and good discretion shs was espoused to a great Eastern King, who had a grave Counsellour, without whom he would do nothing : this vertuous Queen being married to this great King, soon after there arose a great Rebellion in his Countrey from whence he came, wheresby he was constrained to go to suppress the rude multitude, which soon he did, and to settle the uniformity, staid there for the space of half a year, by which tyme his Queen was grown big with childe ; and this old Counsellour whom the King left at home as Guardian of her, wrote Letters to the King, that she was very familiar with a Nobleman in Court, whose name was Palemedis, and that he thought what shs went withall was a Wer-

The seven Wisc Mistrisses.

ward: Thus did he through wicked treachery, thinking to himself, the King was ancient, and wold be the more filled with jealousy, and if he could destroy the Queen and that she went withal, soon after the King would dye, then said he, I shall rule the Land; and from that time forth he sought their destruction. Now when the King had received his Letter he hasted home, and rail'd at his Queen, saying, She was a Whore, and what she went withal was a Bastard, and would not suffer her to come into his company: then this old Traytour went to the Queen, pretending friendship under a falsehood, and advised her to go in a merry way and present the King a Bowl of Wine; and she alwayes thinking he had been a most faithful friend did as he advised her, and before she brought it, he wrote a Libel and kept it in the Kings Chamber: This Libel exprested, that if the Queen at such a time did present him with a Bowl of Wine, he was a dead man, for it was poison; and as the Queen came in, with innocent love, presented the King with the Bowl of Wine, he took his foot and kickt it all down, saying, Then wicked wretch, now I do perceiue thy viles actions, thou hast de-

filed

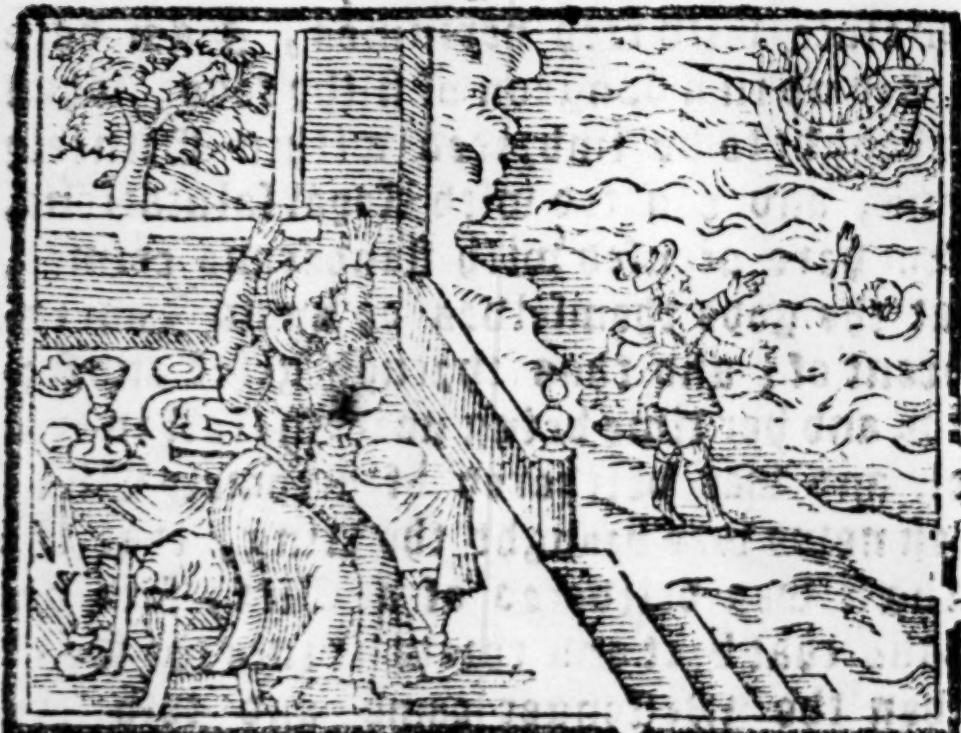
The seven Wisc Mistrisses.

filled my Bed, and defamed my Honour, and art thou now come to poison me, I swear thou shalt by the cruellest death as may be thought on: so committed her to prison, and as she lay there she breathed out these complaints,

O Fortune, why hast thou used me thus, I am a Kings Daughter, and was born Heiress to a flourishing Kingdom, and instead of a Palace with rich perfumes, I am here chaked up in a dungeon of filthy logs, when I thought to be imbraced within Princely arms, and courted with Royal salutations, I am here accused with flanderous crimes, that the gods themselves do know I am innocent of; and thus through grieke and sorrow, and her time being near, she fell in travail, and was delivered of a comely Girl: then news was brought the King, that the Queen was delivered of a Girl, said he, Take that brat and throw it into the Sea: when the Messenger came and told the Queen, she woung her Lilly white hands, and the tears gashed from her Cristal eyes, running down her Rosy cheeks, and she said, Ah wretched babe, hardly conceaved in the Womb before envided, and now scarcely born before thy death determined, and most

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the wilds Desan be thy nursery, and the raging waves thy rocking cradle, and nothing but the Firmament thy covering cloth or canopy ! O, then let the gods of Fortune be thy guide, and the whirling billows sing thy lullaby, so kiss her tender lips, bathing them with brinish tears, and so parfed : and then they put the babe in a Cock-boat, co-



vering it with boughs and green leaves, and hoisted it afloat the Sea, and it happened that the waves toss it ashore in a strange Countrey, that it lay by the Sea-side among the Hedges, and as a Shepheard came that way

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way looking stray sheep , he heard the Childe cry , and he thinking it had been his stray sheep browsing upon the edge of the Rocks , he hasted down so to see , and there he found the Cock-boat rested upon the sea sand ; so he took the Childe and bared it up , and it grew to be the beautifullest Girl in all the world , and the Shepheard put her upon the Mountain to keep sheep ; so it chanced , that the King her Father came a hunting that way , and looking upon her , said , Fair Shephearde , what flock do you belong to , or what may they be that the Goddesses themselves have made you Guardian to ? she answered the King , I am a poor Shepheards Daughter , and bared up in yonder Cottage : Then said the King , fair Virgin , will you leave off your flock and come to Court , there your eyes shall be ravished with triumphant shews , and your ears glasted with delightful Musick , you shall drinke out of Gold , and be clothed in Purple : and she answered the King , the greatest Musick she delighted in , was the bleating of the sheep , and the greatest shews , were their new horn fleeces , a Shepheards wool was greater content to her then Purple , and a wooden dish more fitter then Gold . Then

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the King maruelled greatly, and went to the old Shepheard, and demanded of him whose Daughter she was, and he said 'twas his : nay, said the King, that cannot be, for her beauty shews her to be of Princely race, and said, if he would not tell him the truth, he should dye a cruel death, and commanded him to be led to the Gallows. Then the Shepheard fell down upon his knees, and besought the King that he would spare his life and he would tell him : speak on, said the King ; My Lord (said he) upon a time as I was by the Sea-side looking for stray Sheep, I heard something cry by the Sea side, and I supposing it had been my stray that I missed; I went to see, and there I found a small Boat the Waves had cast ashore, and there in a Childe wrapped in a Scarlet Mantle, and a piece of writing in these words.

Who e're thou art this Childe doth finde,
Make much of it to her prove kinde,
She mighty honour may thee bring,
Being onely Daughter to a King;
Be tender, loving, then to she,
One day thou shalt rewarded be.

When the King heard this, he knew she was

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was his Daughter that he commanded to be thrown into the Sea, and said, since the Gods and Fortune has favoured her, I have no reason to hate her; therefore he commanded her to be brought home to the Palace, and clothed her in most rich array, and made her sit at his right hand, after that, he dispatch't four of his Noblemen to the Island of Delphos, to inquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether the Queen was guilty of the charge laid against her, and when they came in the Temple before the Oracle, they did their reverence, and the Oracle spake, and said, Stand here two dayes, and speak not one word, and the third day you shall finde on the back side of the Oracle a scroll of Parchment sealed up; that take and haste away to the King, and break it not up till you come in the Judgement Hall, and before all the Councel, there the King shall finde the truth written; then they did their obsequies, and so departed, and took shipping, and the seventh day they arrived in their own Countrey: when they came before the King, they acquainted him what the Oracle had commanded them to do, and so with the King assembled all his Lords into the Judgment Hall, every one expecting a sad doom for the Queen

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Queen ; but when the Scroll was broke open, and read, it proved thus, saying, The Queen is innocent, her Childe is lawfully begotten, the old Counsellour is the Traytor ; and the King shall dye without an Heir, if Equity and Justice takes not place. When the Counsel heard this, they all resorged, and the King sent immediately for his Queen out of prison, but the messenger brought him word again, that the Queen was dead ; then the King fell a weeping and wringing his hands, saying, O miserable wretch am I, that believed such an old cursed Caitiff as I have done ! O woe is me that ever I was born, I caus'd my Child to be drown'd in the Sea, had not the Gods and Fortune preserv'd her, and now I have slain my vertuous and innocent Queen by false and bitter imprisonment, through the advice of an old cursed Villain ; surely he shall dye the miserablest death as may be thought of : and speedily he commanded two wilde Horses to be brought, and ty'd the Traytors two hands to one tail, and his two legs to the other ; so drew him limb from limb, and threw his quarters to the beasts of the field and the fowles of the air, a just reward for such an inhumane Traytor : And then he prepar'd

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the richest Tomb that ever was seen for his Queen, and commanded all the Lords and Barons of the Land to appear at her great Funeral, which was solemnized in mighty state, and honourably interr'd her in his own Chappel, where upon her Tomb he caused to be ingraven these words following.

Through ill advice of evil Traytors,
Have slain my Queen in woful misery;
For which advice I ever shall repent,
And to my dying day be discontent:
And whosoe'er thou art that passeth by,
Curse him that caus'd thy Queen to dye.

Then said the Empress, you have shewed me a good Example to beware of bad Counsel; therefore my Daughter shall not dye: And the Mistris departed from her with a joyful heart.

The sixth Complaint of Radamentus.

Vhen Radamentus perceiving by the muttering of the servants that the young Princess was report'd again, he grew so impatient, that all thought he would have run mad; therefore they ran and told the

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the Empress, that Radamentus was going
beside himself, for they never saw him be-
fore in such a passion: Then the Empress
went to him and said, wherefore my good
Lord are you so impatient? he answered, O
Lady, how shall I hide my grief! the great
love I bear to you doth prohibit me from
leaving you, and if I stay, I see nothing
but ruine and destruction doth attend you, in
suffering such base and lascivious actions,
committed by your graceless Daughter, and
not suppressed according to Law, that I am
ashamed to go out in the sight of the sun; my
Counsel which you ought to receiue you
sight, and rather belieue the old wives fa-
bles, then my grave Counsel: Therefore I
fear it will happen to you worse then it did
to the Lady, who tender'd her young Lion
aboue all the bad, till at the last he toze her
thyoat, as is mentioned in the Example. O
my good Lord said the Empress, shew me
that Example; and said, gladly that would
I do, but it availeth nothing, to morrow you
will hear the Mistresses again, nevertheless
I'll shew you one Example more, and began
as followeth.

The seven Wise Mistresses.

The sixth Example of Radamentus.

SOMETIMES in Asia lived a Lady, who being with childe longed for a young Lion, so that inquisition was made all over Asia for a young Lion; at last a Nobleman being a hunting in a wilds Forrest, chanced to catch a Lyons whelp, and sent it to the Lady, who no sooner receiv'd it, but fell in labour, and was deliv'rd of a Boy, whom she loved marvellous, and kept the Lion alwayes by her, feeding it with all the dainties she possible could get, and the Lion would follow her up and down the house, and seem'd as tame as a Dog: at last he would walk abroad, and run among the sheep but meddle with none, that caused the Lady to love him, and tender him like as she did a Childe, seeing he would run after her so prettily among the sheep, and not touch any; but why should he, when his belly was fill'd with all the Dainties that may be got. But it came to pass upon a time, the Lady went from home, and committed the charge of her young Lion to her maid, but alas she gave him not the attendance her Lady did; wherefore he ran out among the flock, and

rew

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slew one of the best sheep thereto, and devoured him; when the Lady came home, the Shepheard complained to her, and said, the Lion had slain one of the best sheep in the flock, and the Lady would not believe it, till the Steward came, and also verified it; then said the Lady, alas, if he has slain one of the flock, it is but through his foolishness, for he is but a whelp, and tender, and knew not what he did, but if we catch him again doing such a trick, we will correct him for it; and not long after he came into the flock and slew two, and devoured as much as he could, the rest that was left a Greyhound of the house found and eat it; the Lion being come home first, and got to his couch, there was no suspicion of him, but the poor Greyhound coming home with his chops all bloody, was apprehended of the Shepheard, and all the blame put upon him; wherefore the Lady commanded him to be hang'd, therefore according to the old Proverb, It is better for some to steal an horse, than another to look over the hedge: The third time the Lion went to the flock, slew three, and glutted himself in their blood; then the Shepheard complained the third time, but could have no redress, the

Lady

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Lady still pardoning him, hoping he would mend: and the fourth time he fell among the flock, slaying and spoiling above twenty; then all people cry'd shame upon the Lady, for keeping a ravenous Beast to destroy so good a flock; yet the Lady would not kill him, nor hardly givs credit to what they said, nevertheless she kept him in her Chamber close for two or three dayes, and he lay close by the Cradle wheres her young Son was; and it happened one morning



one morning, that his wrath began to rise, and his eyes seemed as red as blood, walking up and down the Chamber, he smelt to the Cradle

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Cradle whers the Infant lay, and at last
saupt upon him, and toze him all to pieces,
and sat him before the mothers face; then
the Lady wzung her bands, and curst the
time she refused to kill him: but that did
not satisfe the savage beast, but after he had
dispatcht the Childe, he saupt upon the La-
dy, and toze her eynt from eynt; and when
the serbants ran up and looke through the
key holes, all the Chamber was of a gore
blood.

Then said Radamento, I fear it will hap-
pen to you as it did unto this poor Lady, in
tendering and saving your wicked Daugh-
ter so oft, that when she comes to have pow-
er, she will destroy your Subjects the good
þyæp, and after bring you to a miserable
end. Then said the Empress, surely that
shall not be, for to morrow my Daughter
shall dys: then she commanded her Officers
to lead her away to the stakes, arrayed all
over in a white robe signifying Death: then
all the people cry'd out, alas, and for ever-
more! the Empress Daughter is leading a-
gain to dys, & they much lamented her death.
Then the sixth Mistress when she heard of it,
mounted on horseback, and hasted to the Em-
press; who was no sooner come, but the Em-
press

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press disdainfully lookt upon her, and threat-
ned her sorely that she should dye with her
Daughter, for bringing her up in such hor-
rid actions, that all the world was ashame'd
of her: The Mistris said, I have not de-
serb'd as you say; and as for your Daughter
you shall know she shall speak within throe
dayes, and all the truth shall come to light;
but if you put her to death for the words of
one man, it will surely happen to you as it
did to the Princess of Burgundy, who for
the love of a forreign Prince, and the ad-
vice of an evill Counsellour, caused her own
precious Daughter to be put to death, for
which after she would have given her own
life. For the love of God said the Empress,
Show me that Example; that shall I not do
said the Mistris, except you send for your
Daughter back again, otherwise she may be
dead, and then I should talk to you in vain:
Then the Empress commanded her Daugh-
ter to be call'd back again; and the Mistris
began as followeth.

The Example of the sixth Mistris.

Some time in Burgundy lived a faire Prin-
cess of famous worth and great renown;

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this Princess took wonderful great delight in seeing Jousts and Turnies: where upon a time there came several brave Princes and Nobles to shew their valour before this great Princess, and there assembled together seventy and thre brave Heroes, and when the Princess beheld them all, she thought the magnificency of the whole world were that day assembled together: amongst whom was gallant Brutus, one of the Knights of Malta; and he behav'd himself so gallantly, that all the honour of the day accrued to him, that the Princess was so much charmed on him, that her eye was fixed all day long upon the place where he stood; and when the day was over, this gallant Brutus came off the Field with honour, Trumpets sounding, and victorious Trophies before him: Now the Lady was in the window of her Castle all the while, and beheld his worthy acts, so that her love burned on him, but could not tell how to reveal it: Yet afterwards she invited the Knight to a Banquet, and sent the message by her own Steward, for which Brutus returned the Princess many thanks, and reputed her invitation as a great honour; and when the Day was come, the Knight appear'd

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appeared before the Princess in such a brave gesture and comely deportment, that the Princess was ravish't to see the excellency of his carriage; so they went to Dinner that day, and passed away the time in complemental discourses: Now this Lady had a Daughter most beautiful and fair, full of modesty and vertue, and of comely features, and upon her the Knight had a fixed eye, but the Princess never minded that, for she thought the Knight was moys ambitious to Court her then her Daughter, being young and of tender years, therefore she was clear of any jealousie of her Daughter; so after

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they had feasted together for the space of a week, the Knight most courteously took his leave of the Princess, and departed home into his own Countrey, promising to come again soon after; but failing to come, the Lady wondering the Knight did not come, she askt her Steward what may be the reason of it: he said, that he perceved the sight of her littles Hound did displease him, therefore he would not come; now this Princess loved the Hound as she did the greatest Jewel she had, nevertheless by the Stewards advice she commanded him to be put to death. Now, said she, I hope I shall please the Knight when he comes; soon after the Knight came, and courted the Princess very highly, but as he was coming through a dark room in the Castle, he chanced to stumble; and he said to himself, Ile never come this way again: the Princess hearing the Knight say so, asked the Steward why he said so: quoth he, because the Parrot was in that room; I said the Lady, though I prize the Parrot as my life, yet go and kill it: So after they had passed the time away in all Courtly Delights and Princely Sports for the space of a whole moneth together, the Knight most courte-

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only took his loabe of the P̄inceſſe, and went again into his own Countrey, for his affections were altogether knit upon the young Lady, though he hid it in obſcurity, & the P̄inceſſe thought it was upon her ſelf; ſo the time paſſed beyond her expeſtation in looking for the Knights coming again, and admiring at his abſence ſo long, asked her ſteward what might be the reaſon of it, of whom ſhe alwayes took aduice: and he ſaid, the Knight has moze loabe for the young Lady your Daughter, then he has to you; for alwayes when he is here, ſhe is in his Chamber wantonly playing with him, and ſhe does all what ſhe can to conſpire your Death; and if ſhe live any longer, ſhe will prode to be your uffer ruine and deſtruction. Then the P̄inceſſe commanded her to be ſacrificed upon the Altar to the Oracle of Apollo; then there was an Altar erected before the Palace Gate, covered all over with black, upon which was placed four great War-Candles ſet in ſockets of Silver, by which was placed a Block of Ebony, a Chaffing-dish of Coles, and a Knife for the Executiōne: These being ready, the young Lady was brought upon the Altar, attended by twelve Ladies arrayed all in white Mēts;

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ments: then the dying Lady spake to the Princess as followeth: Most reverend Mother and dread Princess, I am here brought to be sacrificed for things laid to my Charge I know not of; and if you put me to death, there is a God of all things who knoweth the secrets of all mens hearts, that will in one day bring the truth to light, to the shame and dis-
honour of the unjust, who are guilty of this my innocent Death. And thus having ended her Speech, and preparing for the Block, Brutus the valiant Knight rushed into the Palace yard, who demanded the cause of the multitude, and the people said, that the Princess Daughter that day was to be sacrificed; then the Knight spurred his Steed, and rode among the people, making a lane which way he came, and rescued the Lady from the Altar, and brought her in before her mother again; and said to the Princess, Madam, you had but three things in your Palace beside your self, which I delighted in, and those you would destroy: The Princess asked him which were those: and the Knight said, Your Daughter, your Hound: and your Parrot, and the Princess said, My Steward informed me the Hound did offend you, and abusid me to kill him,

and

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and another time told me the Parret displeased you, and counselled me to destroy it, and thridly, my Daughter had most wickedly conspired my death, for whitch he advised me to sacrifice her to the Oracle of Apollo. Then said the Knight, call hither the Steward, who being come, he asked him, did I tell thes the Hound offended me? he said no: he asked him again, did I tell thee the Parret displeased me? and he said no: didst thou ever see the Lady in my Chamber? and he answered nothing, but fell down upon his knees, and begg'd pardon of the Princess. Then said the Princess, O cursed Traytor, what hast thou made me to do, to slay my Hound I loved so dearly, and the Parret as I did my life, and to attempt the murther of my onely Daughter, through thy treacherous, base, and wicked Counsel; surely thou shalt dye for't, so commanded him to be led to the Gallows and hang'd: Thus was the vertuous Lady saved, and the unjust Traytor condemned. Now said the Mistris, understand ye what I have said: yes right well said the Empress, and it reforceth me heart the young Lady was saved; therefore my Daughter this day shall not dye: Even said the Mistris,

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if you do so you will do well ; therefore I command you to God, and thank you for sparing your Daughter this day for my sake.

The seventh Complaint of Radamentus.

Vhen Radamentus heard the young Lady was pardoned again, he ran up and down the Garden like a mad man, crying with a loud voice, O unhappy man am I that should thus come into this Country, pretending to execute justice, and I am constrained to suffer vice to be supported, to the ruine of the Empress, and destruction of the Empire, and shame and confusion to my own self ; I wish I had never come hither ! and the Empress said, leave off such talk, Justice will be done. O Lady said Radamentus, it will happen to you as it did to the Queen of the Vandals, which is mentioned in the Example ; good my Lord said the Empress, shew me that Example ; that I will gladly do said Radamentus, if you will take example by it, otherwise it availeth me nothing to tell it you, for I have shewed you six already, and yet you are disfavored from them by six foolish women ; nevertheless I will shew you this one, though

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though it be the last I ever shall do.

The seventh Example of Radamentus.

There was a Queen of the Vandals upon
a tyme who had a very beautifull
Daughter, who she tendered very much, and
loved as she did her own life; insomuch, that
wheresoever she went, her Daughter must
go along with her; and as they were walk-
ing upon a tyme in the fields, the young
Lady had a Bird in her hand, whom she



would very fain have to sing and because she
could not make him sing, she peckt out his
two

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two eyes with her Bodkin, and torn'd it loose, and the Bird flew back, and by accident lighted in the branch of a Vine which grew over the Queens window, and there harboured for a while singing very dolefully every morning at the Queens window: Then said the Queen, O that I knew but what this poor Bird doth so mournfully sing now his eyes be out? And then stood up an old man whose name was Mimnon, and said, if it may not offend the Queen, I shall declare the interpretation of the Song: then said the Queen, speak on; and he said, Graftons Lady, the contents of the song is a warning to you to beware and to cut off. The interpretation is, to beware that your Daughter peck not out your eyes as she did his; and that you cut her off before she come to that maturity, as to sit upon your Throne with the Crown upon her head, when you are on the pavement on your bare knees. And the Queen answered, these are but fables, believe them not, my dear childe is of no such nature; so past it over like the old saying, till the time of repentance was too late; for she tender'd her Daughter so much, that she would make her Queen to rule one year, and her self another, and did ratifie

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ratifie and confirm by her own hand and Seal, that whatsoever her Daughter did enact or do in her Reign, it should stand as law for ever established; so when her Daughter came to maturity the Queen would needs see how the Crown would become her, and made her Daughter Queen for that year, and Crowned her in great pomp: when her Daughter had on the Royal Robe and Crown, and all the power in her own hands, she thought it became her so well, that she was loath to part with it; and so to keep it while she had it, that very year she taxt her Mother, the late Queen of high Treason for the death of her Father, and brought her upon her kness before the Bar of Justice, and she sat upon the Royal Throne. The Queen perceiving her Daughters tyranny began to spring aloft, the night following she made her escape, thinking to raise an Army; but her Daughter being too cunning, laid watch and ward round the City and took her again, and to prevent her future escape, boared both her eyes out, and then the Queen remembered the singing of the poor blinde Bird, and wept most bitterly, saying, Cursed be the time that I refused to obey the voice of the Bird,

Bird,

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Wird ; after that this wicked Daughter brought her again to the Bar of Justice, and found her guilty for endeavouring her escape, that in one day she deposed her of Life, Crown, and Kingdom, and after resigned a wicked Tyrant, that all people curse the day she was born : therefore I fear your wicked Daughter will prove so to you if you let her live. The Empress said, God forbid it should happen so ; but to prevent it, to morrow I shall sit in Judgement, and she shall surely dye : and on the morrow she commanded her Officers to lead her again to the stakes. When Penthisila the seventh Mistress heard that, away she hasted to the Empress, and did her obeysance, and the Empress frowningly lookt upon her, and said, O thou cursed Cattis, what hast thou done to my childe, how hast thou taught her to be a Whore, a Beast, and a Strumpet, and also hast cut the tongue out of her head that she cannot speak ? thou shalt dye as well as she, for I long to be avenged on the and all the fellows. Then said Penthisila, Most gracious Empress, the accusation against your vertuous Daughter is false, and it is but a small time betwixt this and to morrow noon, and if you please to spare her

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till then, with the help of Almighty God
she shall speak unto you in all vertuous learning, and the truth of all things shall be made
manifest; but if you will not, it shall hap-
pen to you as it did unto a rich widow
which is mentioned in the Example. Then
shew me that Example, said the Empress,
that shall I not do, said the Mistris, except
you call your Daughter gain; then shall you
hear such a notable Example, as you shall
beware the advice of one man as long as you
live, and so began as followeth.

The Example of the seventh Mistris.

Upon a time there was a mighty rich
widow who had a bountiful Estate,
and she had one onely Daughter, who was
Heiress unto this Estate; but it chanced
that this Widow being not capable alto-
gether to govern it all, she chose a grave Mi-
nister to be her assistant in the government
of it. Now said this old man, if I could cut
off the Heiress, I would quickly fuggle the
widow out of it, and then rule as chief
Lord my self in it: And to begin his trea-
cery, he said to the Widow, I hold it ve-
ry convenient, since you are a widow and

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I a Bachelor, to conclude a Marriage and spend our dages together, provided that you will cut off the intail, and disinherit your Daughter, whereby we may enjoy it while we do live, and after our decease we will give it to her again. The Widow lik't this very well, thinking he had advised her to the best, and thereupon disinherited her own childe: then she asked the old man to be as good as his promise, who said, I will marry ye if you will assign the whole Estate over to me, then I will marry ye on May day next, and be careful of your childe, looking to you, and govern it all. When the Widow hearing that, reposed great confidence in him, made all her Estate over to him: When this was done, he neither look't after the Childe nor cared for the Widow, which made the Daughter run distract, and dyed in the publick Field, and at May day the Widow wondered why he would not come and perform his promise, at last went to him, and ask't him, Sir, why do you not perform your promise, and marry me? why, said the old Minister, I am ready to marry ye if you have got a good Husband: then said the Widow, Will not you be my Husband? no, said he, I promised but to

mar-

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marry ye, not to be your Husband ; the be-
ster Knave you, then , said the ~~Widow~~ ; so
she went out and wept bitterly, saying, That
hand which signed all my Estates to yonder
cursed Cattis from my own Childe , shall
now end my miserable life , so stabb'd her
self. Then said the Mistris , understand ye
Madam what I have said , yes , right well
said the Empress : then said the Mistris ,
beware , and beliue not that old Counsellor ,
for he does but labour to cut off your
only Daughter , and after to ruine you , so
that he may reign as Lord and Emperour.
You have shewed me a good Example , said
the Empress , though it grieves my heart to
hear it proved so fatal to the ~~Widow~~ ; there-
fore my Daughter shall not dye this day , but
I shall rejoyce exceedingly to hear her speak
to morrow : said the Mistris , by the assi-
stance of the Divine Powers she shall
speak , whereby she shall decide all the vari-
ances betwixt Radamentus and us , and you
shall see the truth brought to light , so took
leave of the Empress , and departed.

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Chap. 6.

How Sabrina the Empress Daughter complained of Radamentus, and how she excused herself of her accusation.

Nown all the **Mistresses**, Penthisila, Debonia, Cicere, Dejanara, Boadicia, Mardula, and Halicuja took counsel how they should bring the **Princess** out of **Prison** to the **Palace**; so they went to the **Princess** on the morrow betimes to counsel her, and the **Princess** said, take no care what I shall say, I am provided already: then they all rejoiced, and clothed her in cloth of Gold, and put her in a **Chariot**, drawn by six milk white **Steeds**, and they rid on horseback, three before the **Chariot**, one of each side, and two behinde, with stately **Banners** carried before, and all sorts of **Musick** playing; when the **Empress** heard the noise she asked what it meant, and the people said, the young **Princess** and all the **seven Wise Mistresses** of **Rome** were coming to the **Palace**; and the **Empress** rejoiced exceedingly, and came out to meet them, and when the **Princess** was come, she said to her Mother, Hail my most dear and Royal Mother, and fell upon her

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her knees, and the Empress full of joy to bear her speak, took her up in her arms and kist her: then began the Princess to declare the whole matter before the Empress, and all the whole multitude, and she began as followeth, Most dear Mother, before I proceed, I desire that my accuser Radamentus and all the Gentlemen of his Bed-Chamber do appear before us; so the Empress commanded Radamentus to appear with all his men, who immediately came: then said the Princess, Most dear Mother, behold the



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young Gentleman that standeth there in black, who is favourite to Radamentus, above all others, command him to be script before us all; said the Empress, that will be a shame to us: nay said the Princess, he the shame to these that deserve it; and when he was unclothed he was known to be a woman to the admiration of all.

The Complaint of the Princess against Radamentus.

Then said the Princess to her Mother, Behold this Fornicator; and this Whore, who hath commonly lain with him in his bed, committing the foul sin of fornication; which thing he would also have committed with me in the Garden, and because I would not consent to his filthy lust, he ran out, crying, he had seen me lying with a man under the Fig tree, and thereby complained unjustly against me, seeking all possible means how to take my life away: Therefore most gracious Mother, give me leave to reproach him of all his grievous slanders, and false accusations, word by word; and I beseech you to hear me patiently. When you sent for me at his request, I beheld the Stars, by which

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which I knew, that if I shold have spoken to you, or any other, within seuen dayes, I was deereed I shold dy a shameful death, for whiche cause I did forbeare to speake until this present. When the Empress heard her Daughter so fast and learnedly vindicate the truth, she said to Radamentus, O wicked wretch, was not thy Concubine enough to satisfie thy foul and lecherous appetite, but wouldest have had to do with my onely Daughter. Then Radamentus fell to the ground and begg'd pardon; but the Empress said, O ungrateful Traytor, thou dost ask mercy, but thou shalt finde none, for the law shalt be upon thee even unto a shamefull death as thou hast deserued.

Then said the Princess, Most gracious Mother, it was told you by this wretched Cattiff, that I shold by the help of my Mistresses, endeavour your destruction, and assumme the Government to my selfe: Alas, I shold moe rather use all the art and skill I have to helpe and support you in all your Government about your Empire, and repute you my Sovereign, since I have from you all my living and maintenance, not to deprive you of your Dignity, for in your honour do I glory. Then said the Empress,

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blessed be Almighty God, that I have such a good and learned Daughter, that I finds so expert in all Arts and Sciences; therefore declare to us one example whereby I may understand thy wisdom perfectly, then shall I have joy of thee, and my heart will be satisfied. Then said the Princess, Gracious Mother, Command silence among the people, that all may hear us, and when I have ended, give sentence according to law upon me and Radamentus: When the Hall was silenced, the Princess began as followeth.

The Example of Sabrina the Empress Daughter.

There was a Queen which had but one Daughter, whom she loved as she did her life; therefore the Queen delivered her to a Wise Mistris to be brought up, and be instructed in all vertuous Learning and Wisdom: and when she had been with her Mistris a certain while, her Mother had a desire to see her, and sent Letters to the Mistris to bring home her Daughter; when she came, she appeared to her Mother, so expert in learning, comely in behaviour, and amiable unto all, that the Queen rejoiced exceedingly: and it happened on a time, as she

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delivered a bowl of Wine to her Mother, the Queen looked upon the wall and saw the shadow of a hand which wrote three lines in an unknown tongue, and the Queen began to fear greatly, and said, happy were that person which could interpret what that writing meant; then her Daughter said, if it may not offend the Queen, I could give the true interpretation thereof: and the Queen said, speak on my good Daughter; and the Childe said, Most honoured Mother, this writing doth signify, that I shall become a mighty Princess, and shall be honoured of all people, especially my own Mother, who shall bring me a Bowl of Wine, and bow three times, and kneel in the delivery of it; and the Queen said, Thou shalt never be honoured so of me, nor have such service; therefore she commanded her servants to take her into a Forest far from the Court, and there slay her, and bring her Heart to show her, that she may know the truth of her death: so the servants took her away to the Forest, and having compassion on so sweet a Childe, said among themselves, let us deceive the Queen in this bloody act, and save the Childe, and we will put her in this hollow Tree, and kill a Lamb of the Mountain

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and bring the Heart to the Queen, which accordingly they did, and the Queen belie-
ved it was the Heart of her Daughter ; say-
ing, Prophecies sometime prove not true.
And it chanced that on the morrow after, a
strange Knight hapned to hunt in the For-
est, where the Childe was to be slain, and
his Dogs bayed about the tree, where the
Queens Daughter was : at last the Knight
looked in the hollow of the tree, and there
he espied a young Circle of such incompara-
ble beauty, that his eyes never beheld a fair-
er, which made him suspect that she was of
some noble race ; and so he commanded his
servants to be careful of her, and to bring
her into his own countrey, where he did
bring her up in all learned Arts, and with
royal attendants, till at last her fame began
to ring throughout the whole Kingdome, for
Vertue, Beauty and Learning ; and the
Emperour of that Land being very youthful,
came to that Knights house for to view her.
And no sooner did he behold her, but he was
smitten with the inflammation of Love, and
after dinner he danced with her, and in the
evening he married her, and brought her in
great triumph and solemnity home to his
own Court. And after that, the three Eastern
Kings

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Kings hearing of her fame, came to see her beauty, and to bring her presents: thus for three years she lived with her husband the Emperour in all joy and happiness, and then he dyed, leaving the whole Empire unto



she, who was then called the great Empress of Blodermario. When she was thus in the height of all her glory, she viewed the Firmament, and perceived by her skill in Astrology, how her Mother that day was deposed by the Prince of Moravia, of Crown and Kingdom, and banished out of her country; and laying to heart the distressed con-

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dition her mother was in, had compassion on her, (for pure Nature will never fall away) and therefore she raised a brave and mighty Army, and marched towards her mothers Countrey: which newes did flye before her, that it was told the Queen her mother, the great Empress of Blodemario was coming to her assistance; which made the Queen to refyre, and wonder greatly, knowing she had never no correspondence with her before. Wherefore she went to meet her, and when she came before the great Empress, she fell down upon her knees, and said. O great Empress, how have I merited so great honour and favour, that your most Excellent Majestie have vouchsafed to come in person, and establish me again in my kingdom! Then the Empress took her up, and bade her come into the Chariot to her, and when they came home to the Court, the Queen brought the Empress a bowl of wine and bewad thre times, and fell down upon her knees to present it: then the Empress commanded her servants to depart the room, and then she asked the Queen what Children she had; and the Queen answered, she had one Daughter but she was dead. Then the Empress said, tell me true, did she dye a natu-

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natural death or no : tell me the truth, for I swear by my Crown you shall come to no damage. Then the Queen answered, Most glorious Princess, I brought up my daughter in all vertuous Learning, Arts and Sciences, that for her wisdom and comely behaviour she was honoured of all people, and beloved of every one ; she was my only delight, and in her absence was my greatest sorrow, that without her presence I was discontent : when I was wont to sit down to meals, she was always at my elbow, to give me a bowl of wine when I should please to call for it ; for the pleasantest draught that ever I drank was out of her hand. And it happened upon a time as I sat at dinner, my Daughter waited upon me, and as she bare a bowl of wine to my hand, there appeared the shadow of an Arm upon the wall, and it wrote these lines to the great astonishment of us all : and I beheld it my self, and said, What person was happy which could read and interpret those Lines that were written upon the wall by a secret and an unknown hand, that none but the Divine powers did know of. Having thus spoken, my Daughter stood up and spake unto me in these words, If it may please my most dear

and

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and reverend mother not to be offended with me, I could read those Lines upon the wall and interpret them, and give you the trus meaning thereso. Then I answered and said, Speak on my Daughter, and you shall finde whether I shall be angry or no: then my Daughter stood up boldly and said, The Lines upon the wall written are in severall Languages, but the interpretation doth predict or signifie, that I shall become a mighty Princess, and be honoured by all people, especially by my own Parents; for the time shall come, that my Mother shall present a boole of wins to me, and bow thre times, and deliver it upon her knses. When the young Lady had thus made an end of declaring the interpretation of the Lines that were written upon the wall, her mother was very wroth, and said to her self thus, I will never be so servisable to my own daughter sarsly; and bring in my fay I called my servants and commanded them to take her privately away, and convey her to the Forest of Bizar, and there destroy her; and for satisfaction thereso, to bring her Heart and shew it unto me, which accordinly was done, and shz is dead; which for the reason you have heard I did destroy her.

Then

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

Then said the Empress, you might well think it was much in vain to strive against the determinations of the holy will of God; for now you shall know of truth that what is decreed in Heaven abode the forces of mortals can never frustrate below upon the earth; therefore be it known to you that I am your daughter whom you suppose to have been dead, and by the Providence of God I have been preserved, the Lord putting it into the hearts of your servants not to slay me, but to put me into a hollow tree, where a Knight chanced to come that way a hunting, his Dogs did run and encompassed the said tree round about howling and crying, whereby the Knight looking in to see what the reason was of his Dogs making such a howling, he there found me: the servants also to satisfy your implacable wrath against me, that you commanded to bring me Heart, to let you see the Execution was effected, they slew a Lamb on the side of the mountain and presented the Heart to you. The good Knight also that found me in the tree carried me into his own Countrey, and presented me to the Emperour, where I was not long before I was espoused to him his wife, and advanced to the Royal dignity of an

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an Empress; and his most Excellent Ma-
jesty soon after deceased, and left me sole
Heir to his Empire, in which Honour and
Glory I now remain. The Queen hearing
these words, being ravished with joy, and all
amazed, fell down to the earth in a swound,
whom the Empress holding, took up in her
arms, saying, Now you shall know that my
exaltation and dignity accrue to your glorie,
joy, and profit, so they kiss each other: then
the Queen began to weep, but the Empress
said, Weep not my most dear and reverend
mother, for you are restored to your Crown
and Kingdom, whereby you shall be honour-
ed by all people above me during my life
and reign. And afterwards there was a
great Feast prepared, and all the Nobles
and Barons of the Land assembled together
to congratulate and joy with the young Em-
press, in magnificent Showes and Tri-
umphs. After the great Day was over, and
the Celebration ended, the young Empress
sent her Heraldis throughout all the King-
dom, to the Dukes and Princes to repair
to her Mothers Royal Standard, and render
their duty and obedience to her Majestie, and
to set the Crown again upon her Head. And
after she had settled her mother in a streme
and

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and flourishing peace, she departed in great honour and glory, and returned into her own Empire.

Here follows the Application of
the Example.

Then said Sabrina to the Empress her mother, Understand you Madam what I have said? Yes right well said the Empress. Then said the daughter, Most worthy mother, though God hath endued me with Learning and Wisdom so far abode others, yet it shall rather be applied to the supporting of your Honour and Dignity, then to the impating of your glorious Majesty: like as the great Empress in the very height of all her Honour, though somerly her mother did sack her destruction, she did not infringe her mothers Privileges, but on the contrary, she helped her and enlarged her Dominions. Nay, when her mother was banish'd from her Realm, she restor'd her again to her Kingdom, and put the Royal Diadem upon her head; and by her great strength and potent power, caused all the bordering Princes round about to live in fear of her most Excellent Majesty.

And

The seven Wise Mistresses.

And as long as the Empress lived, her mother was honoured above her, and enjoyed her Kingdome in a flourishing peace and tranquillity. Then the Empress took her daughter by the hand and led her up to the upper end of the Hall, and placed her in a Chair of State upon her right hand; then she assembled all her Nobles and Barons, and Privy Councillours, both Ladies and Gentlewomen, and before them all spake thus to her daughter.

My dearly and beloved daughter, I have not without great joy heard you all this



while declare unto me the Jewel of my delight, that is your skillfull Arts and Sciences,

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ces, your good and ably Perfections, just and modest Behaviour in a wiss and Princely deportment, which is no small comfort for me to see and hear; and give me leade to tell you my prudent Chyldes, that since it hath pleased the Divine Powers to accomplish you with so many Graces which adorn your Princely person as the Lilly doth the swat and delightful valleys: so I hope that all my Lords and Barons here assembled, will to your assistance, as to the undoubtful heir of this Empire, sit as Olive banches about your Council Table; for by your learned Narration to me declared, I do well perceve you are able to take upon you the Government of this Empire, and to sit in the glorious Chair of Judgement, which so many of your noble Ancestors hادe possell before you; wheresof few did equalize, at least never did exceed you in learned parts or State Affairs; for you do wear the Head-piece of Vertus, the Touch-stone of Justice, and a Body Politick: therefore I do declare unto you all my Nobles here assembled, that in my opinion and good discretion, I do think it best for me, being now well stricken in years, to leave this tedious busyness of an Empire, and to take me to my rest, wheresby

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I may prepare for another Crown; for I have lived to see many golden dayes, and many others of tribulation, now it is high time for me to lay down my Scepter in peace, and my Crown in rest; for my daughter is grown up to a firm maturity, and well doth deserve the Crown. Moreover, it will fill my bones with content and joy, to see the Crown flourish upon her head before I go of my grads.

Then after the Empress had ended her speech, all the Lords of the Council stood up and said, Most gracious Empress, we do all think our selves happy this day, that it hath pleased your most Excellent Majesty to declare so much your will and pleasure unto us; far be it from the heart of any of your noble Subjects this day here present, to derogate or disanul the least tittle what your Majesties most gracious pleasure is; but as willingly do ratifie, confirm, and establish every word and syllable contained therein, as willingly as ever we plac't the Royal Diadem upon your head: and we do here unanimously, and with a general consent, first, with your gracious leave and pleasure, we do ordain and acknowledge, the Princess your Daughter to be our Sovereign

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reign Lady and Empress. And furthermore we do ordain and appoint the ninth day of the second Moneth, to be Celebrated for the Day of her Coronation.

And when all things were ready and the day come, all the Nobles of the Land appeared that day in their Robes; the old Empress rode before upon a pavillion drawn by six Horses, and two led on each side the pavillion in cloth of State: four and twenty Trophies or Banners were carried before. Next came the young elected Empress in an open Chariot drawn by twelve Camels covered with cloth of Silver all in States, and the Banner Royal was carried before the Empress Chariot, with Trumpets sounding, and all sorts of Musick playing throughout all the City up to the Palace, where the young Empress alighted out of her Chariot, and walked up to the Royal Throne guarded by her Nobles, and with a rich Canopy boise over her head. When she came into the great Hall, she ascended up to the Royal Throne; then after the Ceremonies were ended, the Nobles put the Crown upon her Head, and the Scepter in her Hand, and before the old Empress swore their Allegiance to the young Empress; and

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then with great Joy and Acclamations, the people shouted and said, God save the new Empress.

Then was the old Empress brought into the Hall, where great Ceremonies and Reverence was done to her; then she ascended up to the Royal Throne, and placed she was by the young Empress upon her left hand, and the young Empress began to speak to her mother in this manner:

Most glorious and loving mother, it hath been your will and pleasure to confer upon me this Royal Dignity before your decease, not my Ambition to deserve it: but though I sit in the Glorious Chair of this Empire, and Govern the People now in your Lifetime; yet most dear mother, the Name and Authority shall not depart from you as long as you live: but in all businesses of Consequence that doth belong to the State, I mean these great Concernments that be most painful and laborious, to ease you thereof, I will take the pains in admiring all helps and services that in me lieth, as it becometh a loyal and faithful Subject, according to my bounden duty.

When all the Nobles and Privy Counsellors heard these worthy and Heroick Expressions

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pressions of their young elected Princess, they shouted all again, and gave thanks to the Divine Powers for raising them up such a vertuous and able Gouvernour as she, who was the Supporter of her mothers Honour; the true Maintainer of the Fundamental Laws and Priviledges, and the Glory of all the Realm. Where now we will leade her in her full power and Magistracy, prosecuting the false Judge, evill Counsellor, and perjur'd and arrant Traitor, Radamentus.

How Judgement was given upon Radamentus and his Concubine, and how they were both put to death.

Now when the Empress had Crowned her Daughter, and all the great solemnity ended, she called a Council and assembled there the Nobles, the Barons, and the Learned Judges of the Land, for the speedy tryal of Radamentus and his notorious Concubine: and when they were all met together, and assembled in the Judgment-Hall, the Empress and her Mother being plac'd upon the Royal Throns, and the Court sate, Proclamation was made,

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and Radamentus sent for ; where immediately he and his Concubines were brought into the Hall, fast bound with cords , and commanded to stand before the Bar. Then Sabina the young Empress stood up , and in a most Eloquent and Learned Speech she said thus as followeth :

My Lords and Gentlemen of this honourable Senate, and also all you most grave and reverend Judges of the Land , you have heard already and are very sensible for what Radamentus and his Concubines , both now Prisoners at the Bar of Justice, stand here indicted for. They are not brought hither for a Crime laid against them to take away their Lives wrongfully ; but for a fact which they have committed in the highest degree of insolence , and that you very well all do know. And be it known, that when I was at School with the Seven Wise Mistresses , (I may say of the world) and in the full practice of my Learning, this Radamentus now prisoner at the Bar, being then a very great Counsellor to her Grace the Queen my mother, as you all do know , did instigate my mother to send for me home, to the intent he might learn and finde out a way how to entrap me, whereby to take away my life : and

to

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to effect his horrid Conspiracy, he falsely informed my mother the Empress, that he saw me in the Palace Garden committing the foul sin of Fornication, supposing that I could speak and answer for my self: and hereupon he brought seven Examples to my mother the Empress against me; and laboured very much for seven dayes together, to animate my mother against me. And the reason why I did not speak within the time of those seven dayes was, because when my mother sent for me through his instigation, I saw in the Planets a Starre which did predict a sad omen to me: which was, that when I came to Court, if I did speak a word within seven dayes, I should be most miserable, and be put to the most shameful death that ever Virgin was. Therefore to prevent his wicked intention, I did conceal my Speech for so long; in which time my seven Wise Mistrisses by their learned skill and good discretion did labour in my behalf, and spake for me; each Mistris spake by turne each day, and by Providence saved me: and the eighth day, by the assistance of the Divins Powers, I spake and answered for my self; confessing all the shamefull and

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wicked accusations this hellish Monster of
mankinde had contrived against me, where-
by the unjustice of his own cause hath now
heaped vengeance upon his own heid: More-
over, the Prisoner at the bar, in the time of
my accusation, and long before, did keep a
private Concubine instead of a young man
to wait on him, cloathed in mans apparel,
to satisfie his own lascivious lust, and filthy
appetites, and charged me an innocent Vir-
gin with all those abominable vices and
wicked sins, that he himself dally commit-
ted in his secret chamber; he caused me se-
ven dayes one after another to be led to the
Judgement Hall, where there he late himself,
and gave sentence upon me, and caused
me to be led to the Gallows shamefully to be
burnt at a stake, for crimes laid against me
that I was innocent of: Therefore most
gracious Mother, as you are the Empress of
all the Eastern part of the world, soasmuch
as I will not own the general name till af-
ter your Decease; and all you my Lords
and Barons of the Party Counsel, and you
also my grabe and reverend Judges, whose
power and authority requireth you to do ju-
stice according to the due administration of
thy

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the Statutes of this Realm, I do therefore demand justice upon the shameless Accuser at the Bar, Radamentus and his Concubines, through whose means I was in peril of myself, and led seven times to the Gallows to be executed.

Then Radamentus stood up and said, Great Princess, under whose power and protection the whole Realm do now flourish; and all



you most grave and learned Counsellours and Judges, I am brought to this place to answer for my faults, and the many misdemeanors that I have committed against the Person of your Royal Highness; I confess

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fess my my self guilty, and as I stand here
obliged before the Bar of Justice, I desire
that your Royal Highness may consider the
service I have done for her most Excellent
Majesty your Mother; in the time of your
minority I concluded a Peace between she
and the great Cham; twice between she and
the King of Egypt; and once with the great
Emperour the Lord Belius, in which service
I alwayes proved a faithful Counsellour;
therefore I beseech your gracious Majesty to
consider, and here upon my bended knæs I
do beg mercy and forgiveness for all my
faults committed against your Royal Per-
son; or if that will not be granted, let my
person extend so far in the valuation of your
gracious favours, as to be onely confin'd to
Prison for seven years, or otherwise during
the pleasure of your Majesty; if that may
not be obtained, let it please the mercifull
Court to save my life, and give me exile and
banishment for ever. Yet all this availed
nothing; for the young Princes prosecu-
ted very severely, calling to the Judges, and
saying, My Lords and Gentlemen of the
Counsel, and ye learned Judges of the
Court, you habs heard the Charge against
the

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the evill Traytour at the Bar, and you have
heare his answer; for my part I grant no
pardon, but what the bare Law will give
him, therefore let your wise and good discre-
tions guide ye in the due administrations of
this remarkable piece of Justice, whereby
he may pay the due Debt which the Law
requires.

The Councills and Judges hearing the
words of the Empress, were all astonisht to
hear such wisdom from a woman; then all
the Judges and Counsellours stood up and
call'd Radamentus: Radamentus, your evill
life and conversation is very apparent to the
Court, and your hellish conspiracies and
notorious actions which here this day you
are accus'd of, are publick Evidences
against you at the Bar; and therefore ac-
cording to Law we do all here with a gen-
eral Vote pronounce Sentence against you
and your Concubine, that you shall be taken
away from this place to the place from
whence you came, and from thence to be
drawn at two horses tails throughout the Ci-
ty to the place of Execution, which shall be
under the common Gallows, and there to
be burnt to ashes.

These

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These words being ended, the Court rose up, and the Prisoners were taken away, and carried to the Prison from whence they were taken; and on the seventh day after they were fetched by the Officers belonging to the Empress, and tied both of them to a horses tail, and so was dragged through the streets, where multitudes of people flockt about to see them, all crying out, Behold the horrid Traitor, behold the horrid Traitor! so in this manner they were brought to the



common Gallows, and there bound fast to a stake with iron Chains, ready to be burnt.

Then

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Then began Radamentus to make his Confession after this manner following: O People, behold here Radamentus, once a Judge, and second Ruler in the Land, whose Power extended over all the Empire, and to whom the Subjects came to for Justice, and I ruled with a strict hand, all the people knowing it very well; seven years I sat Judge for life and death, and I have given sentence upon seven hundred sixty and two persons, who departed with their lives in this place where I now stand; I slew my Mother in my birth, my Uncle I gave sentence upon, and I seal'd the warrant for my Fathers death; seven dayes I did strongly plead for the destruction of the Royal Empress, for which cause I am brought hither to suffer that Death which I have deserved long ago; thereforee enlarge your spleen against me, and gibe me firs enough: and as the flame began to arise, the People heard a great and lamentable voice, as they thought ascending out of the Concavities of the earth; and it was sad and doleful to the beholders, so that all wers in a maze, for it roar'd out, saying, Radamentus, Radamentus is comming, make room, for the

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the great Radamentus is comming ; and no sooner were these words spok, but his body did vanish from the stake, and his Concubins consumed in the flame : This was the end of the grandest Traitor and Murderer in all the world, very fit for such a lascivious person.

The Empress having now out-lived her mortal Enemy old Radamentus, she began a most happy and gloriouſ Reign, her own Mother esteem'd her as her onely joy ; the Peoples of the Land did honour her greatly for her excellent Learning and Wilſom, the Subjects did almost adore her for the rarety of her Justice, and the moderation of her Language, her Crown then began to flourish upon her head, and her Name began to spread over all the face of the earth, and the longer she did reign, the more her glory did shinc ; her Mother the old Empress lived till she saw, that what for her Beauty, and what for her Learning, the bordering Nations round about did almost give divine reverence unto her ; and in the heighth of this flourishing Peace, the old Empress dyed and bequeathed her own Crown and Royal Scepter for to be put upon

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upon Sabrina's head in this world, and a Crown of Glory in the world to come. Sabrina after this did Celebrate her Funeral in the greatest Triumph which can be imaginable; She also erected a most sumptuous Monument, wherein she interred the body of her Mother, with this Inscription written on it:

Within this Monument interr'd here lies
The onely Mother of Sabrina the wise,
Who counsell'd was by Radamentus sway,
To take Sabrina's precious life away :
But time and fortune favour'd her at last,
Whose Life was sav'd, and Radamentus lost.

Sabrina the young Empress having buried the old Empress in such state, was commended above all her predecessors: for never was such a Monument erected before. Now Sabrina being Empress of all the Eastern part of the world, began to grow very potent

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tent and great, for all people gabe her reverence, and did homage unto her: Kings and Princes sent her rich presents, and came from farr Counteys to visit and complement her; but mox especially to hear her grade wisdom, and to see the excellency of her Arts and Sciences, which had so much spread oter the whols world; she was accounted the greatest philosopher that was in those dayes in the world, she continually keepeing all sorts of Professours and Artificers, that so she might thereby know the natures of all Vigitables, as Plants, Hearbe, Roots, Leaves, and Trees: She kept four thousand Stables of Horses, which were on purpose for her owne Attendance; there was no Nation at war and variance with her but onely ons, and they were the Tartars; so that now to prevent their Incroachment upon her most rich and plentifull Domintions, she chose a fiftē man out of all her Empire to build a brazen Wall between her and her Enemites, about fifteen hundred miles long, and at every ten miles end she caused to be built a strong and famous Castle, wherein she plac't ten thousand men for to keep guard against the said Tartars, whitch

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which were People inhabiting in a poor
and barren Countrey; for they sought not
to revenge any quarrel or injury done to
them, but merely for some of the Gold and
Riches this glorious Sabrina had, and to see if
they could get into any of her plentifull
Countreys to inhabit, for all her Countreys
were golden Valleys both for profit and
pleasure: and though this brazen Wall was
built and strongly made, yet the fury of the
Tartars was so enraged, that they broke
over, according to the old Proverb, Hunger
will break through stone walls: and for these
hours time there was a mortal Battle; but
the young Empress Sabrina had a Champion
in her Army called Gorgon, a Gyant you
must conceive he was, for he was seven
Cubits high, the Club that he bore was like
the mast of a Ship, his Helmet was made
of Brass, weighing an hundred Shekels of
Iron; this Gyant fought most coura-
geously, and made lanes through the Army of
the Tartars, that all dreaded and feared the
place where he came: And on on a time it
happening, that this Gyant was in the heat
of the Battle, and being extremly hot, he
went to the main Ocean to drinke, and to
refresh

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refresh himself, and in the vehemency of his draught, he swallowed a Souldiers Knapsack full of Linnen, which made it swim, and he spate at it as if it had been but a mote in his glass; but finding himself not very well, he sent for the Empress Phyllisian, who hearing the great Chamption was not well, made what expedition he could to visit him, and seeing him in such a sad temper, he caused a Ladder for to be put down his Throat into his Belly, which was a usual thing or customs in that Country, especially to such men of such bastes and great stature, and commanded his Man to go down the Ladder into his belly, and there for to see if he could finde and know by his skill and good discretion what was the cause of his gries and heaviness; but his man would not venture to go down, except he had a Link in his hand; and therupon he lighted a good blazing Torch, and down he goes: But he had not descended downe above two steps, but the breath of the Gyant arising from his smoaking Gorge did very much dimiss the light of his Link, and to recruit the light again, he smote it upon the rounds of the Ladder, whitch reduced the

Gyant

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Gyant to such an extreamough, that with the extremity thereof he had a very strong vomit, that by the force and strength thereof, he drove the fellow out of his belly, that h. lighted above ten foot from his mouth.

But no sooner was the fellow out of the Gyants belly, but he ran away in a great sweat to his master, and told him, that he would not take half his Estate to go about the same Cure again. Nevertheless, the Gyant became very well afterwards, and built twelve famous Pillars, upon every Pillar he built a Castle, upon every Castle twelve Towers, and upon every Tower spacious Gardens, whereby a Lady of pleasure might have taken much delight in: But whether you may take this to be incredible or no, Ile leave that to your judgement.

But now as for the noble renowned Princess, she became so famous by her own State-Policy, and by the assistance of that Gyant in victorious Battles, that most Princes in all that part of the world became her Tributaries, all being in subjection to her: and she being counted the greatest Beauty that lived in those daves, she was obtained by Alexander King of Egypt, and espoused his Wife, that when the strength of his Army, and the

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excellent wisdom of this Empress, were joyned in one Politick body, they remain'd the sole terror of all the earth for many years together ; but in the end were both deprived from Crowns and Kingdoms.

Of the great and triumphant Wedding between the young Empress and Alexander King of Egypt, and of the unfortunate successes that after ensued in his Dominions.

Now in the beginning of April, when the earth had got on her Summer livery, and adorned with her flourishing wonted ornaments, Alexander King of Egypre designed his purpose to the Realm of Epirus, for he had heard say, there lived an Empress whose wisdom exceeded all the Kings and Princes both adjacent and far remote, and the fame of that Empress invited him thither ; and thereupon he prepared his Horses and Chariots, with his Camels and Dromedaries laden with the richest Merchandize, Gold and Jewels that was in all that part of the world, and prosecuted his design until he arrived in the Kingdom of Epirus, where young Sabrina the Empress maintained her chiefest residence ; and she hearing of his coming, caused

her

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her Heraldes to proclaim in all Cities, Towns, and Corporations, that the great King of Egypt was coming to her Court, and also prepar'd her self in person to meet him: she rode in a rich and stately Chariot drawn by six milk white Steeds, with Trappings of Gold, and twelve Ladies of Honour with Palms in their hands on each side the Chariot; twelve Lord Barons marcht before bearing rich Trophies, in each of which there was artificially wrought a Garland of red Rosees, with all sorts of instruments of music. King Alexander espying the Banners displayed in the Air, immediately knew that it was the Empress, and thereupon commanded his Nobles to drive hard; and when the King was come near to the Empress, and beheld her in all her glory, he was asto- nisht, and said to himself, O Beauty incom- parable! seeming Deity, thou doest want nothing of all the excellencies of a woman, nor in theē has nature fail'd in any thing, but that it made thē mortal; so in as comely a grace, and in as brave a deportment as ever past between King and Queen, they sa- luted each other, and in a most triumphant state marched unto her Royal Palace, where no delight was wanting: The young King

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had not been there above a week, but what by the Beauty, and what by the most marvellous wisdom he saw and heard from the Princess, he was even so ravished, that many times he knew not what he did; but it happened in an evening, that Alexander King of Egypt saw the Empress walking in the Garden; and thought it a fit opportunity to speak unto her; so crept into the Walk, and said unto the Empress, Most amiable, brauteous, wise, and learned Madam, by your Beauty I am ravish't, and at your wisdom I am a-slonish't, even that my senses are bereaved from me! Great Goddess, if I do not obtain one boon from your Grace, I shall live a captive to love, and a bond-slave to desire; the thing which I crave is of no small concernment. The Empress in a most Virgin-like and comely behaviour answered the King, being amorous of him also: My gracious Lord and renowned Prince, whatsoever your request is 'tis granted already. Then said the King, O most fair and prudentiall Queen, nothing do I desire more then onely to make you Queen and sole Mistris of all Egypt. The Empress being wise, considered the King to be a great Prince, amiable in vi-sage, wise and comely in behaviour, granted his

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granted his request: For she understood, that matching with such a great Prince as Alexander, she should become the greatest Empress in the world, adding both powers together; and thereupon she gave him her hand upon it, and the day was appointed when the Marriage should be Celebrated between these two great Potentates; all the Kings, Princes, Dukes, and Ladies in all the bordering Countreys round about were at the Wedding, except the King of Syra, who alwayes was an Antagonist to Alexander, whom all those Princes now began to fear, in regard his Dominions were so enlarged by the Marriage with the wise Empress; and his Power began to increase so, that he swayed the one half of the world, but his Enemy the King of Syra swayed the other; so that between them both the whole Universe was governed. The Marriage being ended, never King or Queen did flourish in more peace and unity for seven years then they did; for through the daily company of this wise and renowned Empress, Alexander was much bettered, and by her wisdom his wits were illuminated; and she made him a body Politiek, insomuch that he would be inquisitive of all Ambassadors to

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know the nature of their Countreys, the disposition of their people, the majesty of their Kings, and the wayes of their Wars. He alwayes kept a great Army, but under strict orders, and much severity; he was feared by all the Kings about him, onely the King of Syra, who daily watcht how he might supprise him; he was lovely, valiant, and discreet; he was courteous to all people, loving to his Empress, of whom he had begot two Sons; his love did alwayes burn and extended so far towards his Empress, that being in Egypt upon a time, leaving his Empress in Epirus, he would every morning run up to the top of a mountain, and look stedfastly towards Epirus, and would send this Message to her by the Moon feignedly.

O Sweet Sabrina, when shall we in seats
Of those blest shades quench and renew our
heats;
There shall the Queen of Love and Innocence,
Beauty and Nature banish all offence:
In thy sweet presence shall I there behold
Thy bared Snow, and thy unbraided Gold;
There my enfranchiz'd hand on every side
Shall o're thy naked polisht Ivory slide;

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No curtain there, though of transparent Lawn
Shall be before thy Virgin treasure drawn ;
But the rich minde to the enquiring eye
Expos'd shall ready still for mintage lye :
And we will coyn young Cupid there a bed
Of Roses, and fresh mirtles shall be spread
Under the cooler shades of Cypress Groves,
Our pillows of the down of Venus Doves,
Whereon our panting love we'l gentle lay
In the faint respites of our active play,
That so our slumbers may in dreams have leisure,
To tell the nimble fancy of our pleasure ;
And so our souls that cannot be imbrac't,
Shall the imbraces of our bodies taste ;
Mean while the publick stream shall drown the
shore,

Th'inamour'd chirping wood-quire shall adore,
In varied Tunes the Deity of Love,
The gentle blasts of Western windes shall move
The trembling leaves, and through the close
boughs breathe

Still Musick, whilst we rest our selves beneath
Their dancing shades, till a soft murmurre sent
From souls iotranc't in amorous languishment,
Rouze us and shoot into our eyes fresh fire
Till we in their sweet extasie expire :
Then as they empty be that lately bore
Into the common Treasure all her store,

The seven Wife Mistresses.

Flyes 'bout the painted fields with nimble Wing,
Deflowring the fresh Virgins of the Spring :
So will I rifle all the sweets that dwell
In my delicious paradise, and swell
My bag with honey drawn forth by the power
Of fervent kisses, from each spicy flower ;
I'le seize the Rose buds in their perfum'd bed,
The Violet Knots like curious Maces spread
O're all the Garden, taste the ripened Cherry,
The Apple, Apricock, and Coral Berry.
Then will I visit with a wandring kiss
The Vale of Lillies, and the Bower of Bliss ;
And where the beauteous Region doth divide
Into two milky wayes my lips shall slide
Down those smooth Alleys, wearing as I go
A track for Lovers in the printed snow ;
Thence climing o're thy swelling Appenine,
Retire into thy Grove of Eglantine,
Where I will all those ravisht sweets distil,
Through loves Alembique, & with chymick skill,
From the mixt Mass, one sovereign balm derive
And bring that great Elixure to thy hive.
Now in more subtle wreaths I will entwine
My lovely Thighs, my Legs, and Arms with thine
Thou like a sea of milk shalt lye display'd,
Whilst I the smooth qualm Ocean doth invade
With such a Tempest, as when Jove of old
Fell down on Dana in a storm of Gold ;

Yee

The seven Wife Mistrisses.

Yet my tall pine shall in the Cyprian strait
Bide safe at Anchor, and unlade her freight ;
My rudder with thy bold hand, like a try'd
And skilful Pilot, thou shalt steer and guide
My Bark into loves Channel, where it shall
Dance as the bounding Waves doth rise and fall :
Then shall thy circling armes imbrace and clip
My willing body and thy balmy lip,
Bathe me in juice of kisses, whose perfume
Like a Religious Incense shall consume,
And send up holy vapours, to those powers
That bless our Loves & crown our sportful hours.
Now Wedlock bonds unwreath our twisted Loves,
We seek no midnight Arbours, no dark Groves
To hide our Kisses, there the hated name
Of Husband, Wife, lust, modest, chaste, or shame,
Are vain and empty words, whose very sound
Was never heard in the Elizian ground :
All things are lawful there that may delight
Nature, or unrestrained appetite ;
Like and enjoy, to will and act is one,
We onely sue where loves rites are not done.

These and ten thousand such expressions
this brave King Alexander did use towards his
renowned Empress ; but fortune not willing
to favour him did cast a cloud over this pat-
tern of virtue ; for no sooner had he set his

King-

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

Kingdom of Egypt and arrived again in Epyrus, but there caue a Herauld at Armes from the King of Syra to challenge him to the Field, that upon the happy success of one battle, the whole universe lay on't, for they two governed all the other Kings in the world: Alexander with a brave courageous spirit answered the Herauld, I look't for the King of Syra in the Field long ago, I wonder his Chariot Wheels are so heavy in driving; and bid him meet upon the Downs of Opher, where I will be in person to assail him and his ten Legions; and presently commanded his Drums to beat, and his Trumpets to sound, with other Instruments of War, and so marched out with his Army, taking his leave of his Royal Princess, and his two Sons, with shewres of tears betwirt them both, so parted the one from the other with heavy hearts. When brave King Alexander was arrived upon the Downs of Opher, he plac't his men in Battle of Aray, and began to admonish them in these words; Most brave and warlike Souldiers, both Epirians and Egyptians, I exhort you this day to be of good courage, and fight manfully, your Cause is just and right; for the Syrans are coming against us without cause, and we are upon our

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

our defence, and this great Battell is the Battell for the whole world ; in the very heat of Battell think to your selves that you do see the grave Senators of Epirus bowing down their hoary heads, praying for your good success ; think that you do hear the Prayers of your Fathers, Mothers, Wives, and Children for you ; and know that whosoever intends to see their friends again, must this day ransome himself with his sword : think to your selves that if the Syra doth vanquish, us how that my head will be plac't upon a Poll, and pitcht up in the Market, place, and my Quar ters hung up, two in Egypt and two in Epirus ; our Cities and Towns burnt and turned to ashes, our Maidens and Virgins deflowered, our Childrens brains dash't against the walls, and our young men slain and murthered, and the brand of scorn upon our Kingdoms for perpetuity. And on the other side, if we do get the day, honour and renown shall be upon our heads, and the glories of Syra shall come into Epirus ; Gold and Silver shall be your rewards, and the favour of your Prince you shall have to eternity. The Souldiers an swered, Most great King, if the Gold of Ophir will make you glorious, if the Treasures of Syra will make you great, and if the strength of

The seven Wise Mistrisses.

of our Army will make you considerable both at home and abroad: be assured great King, you are this day the Master of all the Universe, for here is not a Souldier but at your command will cut his Fathers Throat, and sheath his Sword in his Brothers Blood, to rob the Gods and pull the Temples down, all this will they do if you command them. By this time there was but one Fields breadth between the two Armies, all Ram-piers, Trees, and Hedges were levelled even with the grouud, Lions and Bears were seen to come out of the Woods, as of purpose to devour dead Carkasses, Vultures which are ravening Birds, did darken the Air, Lightning and Thunder came down that did melt the heads of the Foot-mens Spears, and singed the Hair on their Heads, and the Horse Manes. King Alexander divided his Army into four parts, his right Wing consisted of ten thousand, conducted by ten Kings, the Forlorn-Hope were five thousand, the left Wing were ten thousand, conducted by ten Epiran Lords, the main Body was led by brave Alexander himself; the Battle began hot, and sharp, the Forlorn-Hope of the Epirians were driven back to the main Body; then advanced Alexander himself, and the

Bat-

The seven Wise Mistresses.

Battle began to be mortal, the dispute did hold till twelve a Clock, and there fell on both sides above eight thousand: In the afternoon the Battle began again, and the discomfiture fell upon the Epirians, for in four hours time Alexander was fain to quit the Field, being totally defeated and most of his men slain. Alexander was fain to throw his Crown upon the ground, because he would not be known, and escaped by Sea in a poor Fishermans Boat, and sailed into Epirus; and at the Haven where he designed to Land, there his Royal Empress was waiting when any Ship would come in with news; and at last she espied in a poor Fishermans Boat King Alexander himself; at which sight, fear smote her to the heart, that she swounded upon the thought that the King was utterly overthrown: but Alexander took her up in his armes and kiss her, with a shewre of tears bedewing their Princely Cheeks; but there was no remedy, for their Kingdoms was wrested from them, and they forced to flye into an uninhabited Island, wherein they spent the remnant of their dayes with three other petty Kings. Soon after Alexander dyed, and his Empress, who in a Sepulchre which he helved out himself, they were both interred;

on

The seven Wise Mistrisses,
on which was written this following
Epitaph.

Within this House of Stone here lies
The King of Egypt, who was call'd the Wise :
Likewise that glorious and illustrious Queen
Of the Epians here is to be seen ;
Who from all Right and Justice were debarr'd,
When Syrans King in Battle with him Warr'd.

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